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## News Release

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### **ECMC Foundation sponsors one-day session at NASP Conference to train professionals in “Realizing The College Dream,” curriculum guide to expand access to higher education**

ECMC Foundation brought six TRIO trainers to the spring conference of the Northwest Association of Special Programs (NASP) in Boise, Idaho to perform an intensive full day interactive training session May 4. The NASP region includes TRIO grantees from Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Idaho. Teachers and counselors from Idaho area high schools also attended as did TRIO professionals from other states who did not have the opportunity to attend one of the three TRIO training sessions held last fall in Philadelphia, Charlotte and Denver.

The distinguished training team, led by Judy Coburn, Director, Strategies for TRIO Counseling, ASPIRE Training Institute, Laramie Wyo., included Steve Baumann, Director, Learning Resources, School of Medicine, University of Utah; Rebecca Dukstein, Associate Director, Educational Talent Search, University of Kansas; Johnnie Hill-Marsh, Upward Bound Director and EEO/Affirmative Action Officer, LeMoyne College; Adeluisa G. Judal, consultant, trainer, 10-year TRIO veteran and former NASP President; and Lindy B. Waters, Jr., Associate Director of Student Life, Executive Director of McNair Scholars and Director, American Indian Student Services, University of Oklahoma.

Sponsored by ECMC Foundation and developed by the University of California, Berkeley’s Center for Educational Outreach, “Realizing The College Dream” is a curriculum and workshop guide for middle and high school students and their parents that conveys the value of higher education and the financial aid opportunities available.

The guide includes 10 lessons that can be used in a variety of settings (classroom, after-school, and faith- and community-based organizations), and are geared for youth in middle school and high school as well as parents, family members, community college students and other adult learners. Instructional strategies are hands-on and interactive, and the lessons are aligned with national curriculum standards in writing, mathematics, social studies and technology.

The primary content of the guide is divided into three sections:

- Thinking of Yourself as a College-Bound Student: Lessons and Workshops for Students
- Debunking the Myth that “You Can’t Afford College.” Lessons and Workshops for Students
- Getting Involved and Staying Involved: Workshops and Presentations for Families of College-Bound Youth (available in both English and Spanish)

The “Realizing The College Dream” curriculum guide also can be downloaded in its entirety from the ECMC Foundation Web site at [www.ecmcfoundation.org](http://www.ecmcfoundation.org)

Participant comments include:

- “This is one of the best training programs I have experienced.”
- “A great workshop”
- “Your materials will be invaluable for me during my summer classes for Upward Bound students.”

If you are interested in training 100 or more college access professionals in your school or organization, please contact Cheryl James at 866.FDN.ECMC or [cjames@ecmc.org](mailto:cjames@ecmc.org).

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