



TRIO ACHIEVERS: Michael Jackson



TRIO

I grew up as a first generation, low-income student in the countryside in a community with limited transportation, no money and no exposure to higher education. I was born to teenage parents who both did not know how to raise a child. I was raised by my grandparents in a family where no one had attended college or knew anything about it. I didn't grow up seeing people getting up to go to work or school so TRIO opened my eyes to the opportunities that were available.

**Current Career: DSPS/Veterans Counselor
Veterans Services Coordinator**

Education

Bachelor's of Arts in Social Science - Brandman University
Concentration in Sociology, Psychology and Organizational Leadership

Master's Degree in Psychology - Brandman University
Concentration in Marriage and Family Therapy

TRIO Programs: Upward Bound: Ceres High School
Student Support Services: MJC

"TRIO let me know it was possible."

There are a lot of statistics out there that tell you if you're black and low income that you only have a few outcomes. **TRIO said "no, there is more out there."** It opened the door to MJC and showed me that there were different paths and that I didn't have to be like family members or sell drugs or stick with the status quo.

"My TRIO experience was, in one word, transformational."

I worked with excellent advisors and counselors that changed my entire perspective. They took a young boy who knew little about college and exposed me to the better things in life - college, classes, careers. **I never would have imagined that I would be a full-time tenure track counselor giving the same support that I received in TRIO.** It's empowering working with students that are where I started and being on the other side of the table.

"TRIO exposed me to opportunities."

There is a ton of support that's available to students but they often don't succeed because they don't utilize it. Stay engaged and connected with a positive support system and use that to your advantage. From there, the possibilities are endless. **You can start here, go anywhere and be transformed.**