

**2026 MKN Annual Conference**  
**Pre-Conference Workshops, March 30-31, 2026**

*Upward Bound/Upward Bound Math Science/Veterans Upward Bound Program Design Workshop  
with Lucy Jones and Anna McDonald*

**Day 1, Monday 12:30 PM – 6:00 PM (includes snack break)**

- Overview of best practices to effectively build an Upward Bound, an Upward Bound Math Science or a Veterans Upward Bound program led by Mrs. Lucy Jones, consultant with over 30 years of TRIO experience.
- Focus on enhancing your program design by learning about different strategies and emphasizing how to incorporate required services to build, implement, and execute an effective Upward Bound program

**Day 2, Tuesday, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM (includes lunch)**

- Deeper dive into programming design for a specific program through an engaging, interactive format. Lucy Jones will lead the session for Veteran Upward Bound. Anna McDonald, former TRIO Director with years of grant-writing experience, will lead the session for Upward Bound/Upward Bound Math Science programs.

MKN Member Rate is \$250 and Non-Member Rate is \$300.

*GEAR UP Program Design Workshop: Connect, Share, and Strengthen with Corinne Nilson*

**Tuesday 9:00 AM-1:00 PM**

**Kick off your conference experience with purpose and power!** Whether you're new to GEAR UP or a seasoned champion, this high-energy pre-conference workshop is your chance to recharge, reconnect, and reimagine what's possible. Join GEAR UP professionals from Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska for a dynamic session that blends collaboration, strategy, and inspiration. No matter your experience level, you'll leave with practical ideas and new connections to help your program – and your students – thrive. Let's GEAR UP for what's next together. Led by college access advocate **Corinne Nilson**, this workshop will:

- Share **best practices** from existing programs
- Discover new tools and **resource-sharing strategies**
- Build your **professional network** across the Tri-State region
- Explore **introductory advocacy techniques** to elevate your impact
- Learn about our **national TRIO and GEAR UP community** and how to get involved

MKN Member Rate is \$100, MKN Non-Member Rate is \$125.