

■ TRiO SSS Chicago Trip

TRiO SSS students are invited to Chicago on Monday, March 11, 2013. More information on page 3.



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Letter from the Director



Welcome to TRiO Student Support Services' first official newsletter! I am pleased to say this will be the first of many newsletters slated to come from our office. My hope is that these newsletters will give you more of an understanding of what TRiO SSS is and what the program is doing on IPFW's campus. Since this is our first newsletter, I welcome any suggestions for stories, articles from students, or photos you would like to share with others. It is also a hope of mine that I will be able to spotlight one TRiO student each newsletter and let him or her tell his or her story about navigating college. If you are interested in being featured, contact me directly. Since this is the first newsletter, I also feel compelled to explain briefly what TRiO SSS is and why our program is important for IPFW. TRiO SSS is a grant-funded, U.S. Department of Education program. The aim of the program is to assist first-generation, income-eligible, and disabled students in their transition to college. While the program works mostly with first and second year students, any IPFW student is welcome to apply if they meet the eligibility requirements (see page 4 for details about joining the program). The program is funded to serve 140 students annually and 2/3 of the program's participants must be income-eligible and first-generation (neither

parent has been awarded a bachelor's degree)—while the other 1/3 can be either income eligible or first-generation. Students who join the TRiO SSS program benefit from program services including academic coaching and advising, financial aid assistance, specialized workshops, cultural events, volunteer activities, leadership development opportunities, peer mentoring, career information, team building activities, and referrals to other campus and community programs and organizations. In a nutshell, what the program tries to do is make sure students adjust well to college, stay focused and on-track, get involved, and make progress toward bachelor's degree completion at IPFW. The program is designed to assist students by providing motivation, support, guidance, and individualized assistance. Whatever issues students are facing that could affect their ability to stay in college, TRiO SSS will tackle it. And our program works. This is why TRiO programs are still around after almost 50 years! So welcome to TRiO. And if that was not exciting enough, being a part of TRiO means you share a connection with some great TRiO Alumni including, Bernard Harris (first African-American Astronaut), Gwendolynne Moore (U.S. Congresswoman), and Oprah Winfrey. TRiO programs really are a great opportunity for students to get the extra support they need to transition well to college life, so be sure to take advantage of all the program has to offer you. Helping students get to their graduation goals is why TRiO SSS is here!

Would you like to be featured as the next TRiO Student Success Story?

If so, send your story to kevers@ipfw.edu for consideration.

TRiO Student Success Story: Abby Wiegand



About Abby:

Abby is a sophomore Human Services major at IPFW. Despite a very serious health condition (Type 1 Juvenile Diabetes), she has maintained a strong 3.13 GPA. She has been involved with the TRiO SSS program for two years and is currently the TRiO SSS Program Assistant. She is also the Treasurer of the TRiO Club and a member of the TRiO Leadership Team.

Growing up, I had my fair share of challenges that I had to work through. I was raised in a single-parent home with my mother and five siblings—two of whom were already out of the house by the time I was born. My mom was diagnosed with a serious medical condition and most of our money came from some kind of government assistance program. When I was young, she worked as a waitress as much as the assistance program would allow her to until there was an occurrence of abuse in her absence—at which time she decided it would be better for her to be at home with us.

In 1998, I was diagnosed with Type 1 Juvenile Diabetes and that just added to the complications. My mom did the best she could to manage both of our diseases and care for her other children as well. Besides the occasional trips to the emergency room when the diabetes management became too much for us to handle, the rest of the time before college felt fairly normal to me.

When it came time for me to go to college, I was very blessed to have the TRiO Program there to support me. I got involved with the program my second year of college and I have so much to be thankful for because of them. I have learned how to take charge of my life and have learned many professional skills that will be beneficial in my future. After losing health insurance my freshman year, the skills of finding resources and being proactive that I learned from the TRiO program became very crucial for me to find a way to take care of myself without having any health insurance. I can honestly say that I owe my life to the TRiO Program.

TRiO Leadership Academy



TRiO Leadership Academy is a new leadership initiative of the TRiO SSS program. Eight TRiO students have been selected to make up the 2012-2013 TRiO Leaders Team. These students attend a monthly class where they learn about characteristics of effective leaders and develop their own leadership skills.

The goal of the leadership academy is to help first-generation, low-income, minority, and disabled students develop themselves as leaders on-campus and in the community. Students were nominated for this initiative based on academic performance, positive attitude, initiative, creativity, maturity, and problem-solving skills. Current members of the team include: Gladys Calderon, Britten Friar, Jarvisha Jackson, Tiffany Johnson, Monica Kaufman, Nathan Seelye, Allison Stinson, and Abby Wiegand.

TRiO SSS Spring Happenings

Based on TRiO student feedback, the following workshops have been developed for you!

Don't miss these upcoming TRiO SSS workshops:

- February, 12-** FAFSA-What You Need to Know About Financial Aid
- February, 13-** The Longview-Planning & Time Management Skills
- February, 14-** Social Life-Getting Involved on Campus
- February, 19-** Social Life-Getting Involved on Campus
- February, 20-** FAFSA-What You Need to Know About Financial Aid
- February, 21-** The Longview-Planning & Time Management Skills
- February, 26-** The Longview-Planning & Time Management Skills
- February, 27-** Social Life-Getting Involved on Campus
- February, 28-** FAFSA-What You Need to Know About Financial Aid

All workshops will be held in Neff Room 135 from 12-1pm. RSVP to Regina Gordon at gordonr@ipfw.edu if you are interested in attending any of these workshops.

Join the TRiO SSS BIG EVENT Volunteer Team on March 23, 2013, and help out your community in a day of service. Interested students should email Shubitha at kevers@ipfw.edu for more information!

Chicago Spring Break Trip



Titans of the Ice Age 3D Movie at the Field Museum & Jellies Exhibit at the Shedd Aquarium

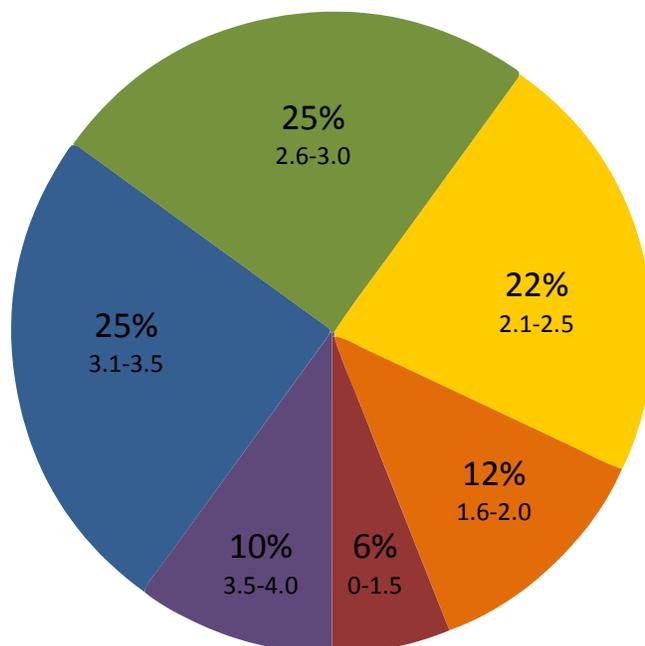


All active TRiO SSS students are invited on a one-day trip to Chicago on Monday, March 11, 2013. Students will travel by charter bus to Chicago, Illinois where they will visit both the Field Museum of Natural History and Shedd Aquarium. Explore the **Jellies** exhibit, watch a live aquatic show, or just stroll through **Waters of the World** at Shedd Aquarium. At the Field Museum, see Sue (the world's most complete T-Rex skeleton), watch the **Titans of the Ice Age** 3D movie, or explore the evolution of DNA. Admission to both museums, transportation, and meals are free; however, students must RSVP for the event as spaces are limited. To reserve your spot, contact Regina Gordon at (260) 481-0220 or gordonr@ipfw.edu today! Kick-off your spring break by visiting two of the most exciting cultural attractions in Chicago with TRiO SSS!

Fall 2012 GPAs for Active TRiO SSS Students

Congratulations to all the TRiO SSS students on completing a great fall 2012 semester! We are pleased to report that over 60% of TRiO SSS students have a cumulative GPA of 2.6 or higher! Keep up the great work! Additionally, 35 students received certificates for improving their semester GPAs.

Also, 44% of active TRiO students utilized some sort of CASA service during the fall 2012 semester—and averaged 7.6 visits each! TRiO SSS students who utilized CASA services last semester, had an average GPA of 2.75, while those who did not visit CASA had an average GPA of 2.08. To learn more about CASA service, speak with your TRiO SSS advisor or visit their website <http://new.ipfw.edu/success/>.



How to Join TRiO SSS

Eligibility Requirements:

- Full-time student at IPFW seeking first bachelor's degree
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Additionally, students must meet one or more of the following qualifications:
 - Are first generation college students (parents do not have a bachelor's degree)
 - Meet federal income guidelines
 - Have documented disability with SSD office

Students who meet eligibility requirements, should request an application from our office or by visiting our website. Completed applications should be returned to the TRiO SSS office. After completing the application, potential students will be interviewed by the program director. Acceptance is based on availability and need for the program. Have more questions? Contact us!

Volunteer with TRiO Club



Want to get more involved? Looking for ways to help out in your community? TRiO Club is a great way to give back. Members of the TRiO Club help organize and staff volunteer activities in the community. For more information on how to join

or just how to sign up to help, contact Abby Wiegand (wiegad01@ipfw.edu) or Shekaira Jefferson (jeffss01@students.ipfw.edu). Currently, the TRiO Club is coordinating volunteering projects at Interfaith Hospitality Network. Students get to work on craft projects with children currently living in an area homeless shelter. TRiO Club is open to all IPFW students regardless of TRiO SSS program affiliation.

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