We are proud to share that we are currently serving 180 students, 20 beyond what is federally mandated for our program. We like to think this number speaks to the demand for program services and to more and more students learning about TRiO supports thanks to faculty, staff, and other program students. We consistently have a wait list, but we have been fortunate to find room for new students as students graduate.

Please join us in celebrating National TRiO Day by recognizing the many accomplishments of our WSU TRiO students (see page 2). All the best, the TRiO staff,

Lorri, Celeste, Charlotte, Kathy & Shakira

It’s hard to believe one year has gone by since our last newsletter in celebration of National TRiO Day, the last Saturday in February each year. The WSU TRiO Student Support Services Program (SSSP) continues to provide vital academic and personal supports to program students. Inside this newsletter, we emphasize the most important piece of our program - TRiO students. Their successes and talents continue to amaze us (see page 2). We also highlight parts of our programming that we’re most proud of and, at the same time, provide you with some updates.

As much as we’d love to support all students that walk through our door, the reality is that we must adhere to federal guidelines - 2/3rd of our students need to be first generation college students and low-income students and/or students with disabilities and 1/3rd of our students with disabilities must also demonstrate low-income. We are happy to report that we are meeting these federal requirements.

Celebrating TRiO Student Success!

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All the best, the TRiO staff,

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TRiO Spring Calendar of Events

Ballet Hispanico
4/3/12 University of Massachusetts Fine Arts Center. Bus leaves at 4PM. Dinner is included.

TRiO Recognition Dinner
4/25/12 Scanlon Living Room. Celebration of TRiO student accomplishments, dinner, music, alumni return!
Academic Success
DEAN’S LIST

Jessica Bartlett
Erica Brittle
Joellen Broska
Taniesha Burton
Christine Carhary
Tiffany Carter
David Clark
Daniel Distefano
John Drumm
Thomas Durkee
Ashley Eaton
Leila Haddad
Heather Houle
Jaime Jaquez
Gloria Jimenez
Welvank Sefakor Kalepe
Sarah Kolinski
Renee Landry
Diane McCray
Cheryl Messer
Jennifer Oram
Stephanie Paylor
Lindsey Poulin
Karen Renda
Yandalis Reyes
Christina Richard
Milagros Rivera
Caleb Rabitaile
Tamyres Santos
Windy Senecharles
Rhodaja Shubrick
Elizabeth Spencer
Meagan Tolley
Eric Tuvell
Afuaw Tweneboah

Campus & Community Leadership

Amina Abo – International Relations Club; Model U.N.
Daniel Amoateng – VP, Economic Society
Beritta Barjey – Urban Education Choir
Melinda Brown – M.A.D.E. (Multicultural Awareness & Diversity Education); Multicultural Student Association (formerly Third World); WSU Fashion Show
Tiffany Carter – Circle K Club; Campus Center and student conduct employee
Georgina Boakyewah – International Relations Club; Model U.N.
Rudy David – Accepted into the Masters Program for Art Therapy at Springfield College
Alison Delphia – Costa Rica J-term, Jan. 2012; Director, Night Owls Club (acapella choir); Music Director spring 2012; Musical Theater Guild
Debora Faustin – Manager, Step Team; TRio Mentor
Yadira Garcia – Art Club; Graphic Design Club; Student Government Association; New Hall’s Hall Council Rep.
Abigail Geraghty – Volunteer, Special Olympics, Spfld., MA
Jamie Jaquez – Student Ambassador; Treasurer, L.A.F.E.; FT police cadet with Spfld. Police Dept.; intern with the Spfd. Police Dept. Community Policing Bureau; Honors Program; candidate for CJ Honor Society; Alpha Phi Sigma
Zannie Mann – TRio Learning Lab employee; Actress, WSU spring production, “For Colored Girls,” Urban Education (UE) Recruitment Mentor
Diane McCray – Founder, TRIO Club; TRIO Mentor; Social Work Club
Mellisa Nash - Step Team; Hall Council, Dickinson Hall
Sara Ostrowski – Accounting Club; Campus Bookstore employee
Bryan Palmer – Communications Internship, Dept. of Academic Achievement
Simbrit Paskins - Step Team; Communication Club; The Voice contributor; Global Women’s History Project; UE Recruitment Mentor; Study Abroad Fall 2012, Dominican Republic
Toussaint Paskins – M.A.D.E. Program Coordinator
Karlah Paul – Captain, Step Team; Secretary, Alcohol Choice Education; Internship with K.E.Y. Program, Spfd., MA; Tutor/mentor Westfield Vocational School
Isabelle Pierre-Louis – Washington Center Internship, Spring 2012
Femary Rodriguez – Navy reservist; Internship, Dunn & Phillips, PC, law office, Spfd., MA
Windy Senecharles – Washington Center Internship, Spring 2012
Liz Spencer – awarded $3,000 in WSU academic scholarships, 2011-2012
Maurice Taylor – TRIO Club, Hip Hop Congress Chapter; International Relations Club; Model U.N.; volunteer DJ WSU campus
Afuaw Tweneboah – International Relations Club; Model U.N.
Over the past several years, TRiO students have been utilizing TRiO Tutoring Services more and more. Between 2009-10 and 2010-11, we experienced a 75% increase in tutoring appointments made by students! We estimate that the 2010-11 academic year will see another 15% increase in appointments on top of that.

The message is clear: TRiO students understand the importance of tutoring to their academic success. Further, they appreciate the services provided by our outstanding team of professional tutors.

TRiO Tutors aid students in developing sound study strategies in a wide range of college courses. John Benvenuto assists students with all kinds of writing assignments and tasks, in any course. Deanna Gagnon effectively helps students through any classes dealing with math or economics. Gaylord Saulsberry is a study skills specialist who works with students in a broad range of social sciences courses, including psychology, sociology, history, political science, and much more.

In Spring 2012 we welcome Matthew Scott to our tutoring team, assisting students in biology, chemistry, and other science courses.

TRiO Tutoring Services are housed in the TRiO Learning Lab, a computer lab in Ely Hall reserved for the exclusive use of TRiO students. The lab is equipped with computers, a printer, a scanner, and assistive educational tools like Inspiration organization software and Kurzweil reading technology.

The TRiO Club was kick-started this fall by two TRiO students–Diane McCray and David Mailloux. Diane and David both attended Holyoke Community College (HCC) and were part of HCC’s TRiO SSS Program, STRIVE, while students there. As part of their participation in STRIVE they were members of the TRiO Club. Diane and David helped bring this idea to WSU by drafting our new TRiO Club constitution and getting the club up and running.

The mission of the TRiO Club is to build community within TRiO and the broader campus, organize community service activities, advocate for access to higher education for all, and promote multiculturalism.

This fall the Club held a potluck and hosted “Black & Red, Wear It!” Day for World AIDS Day and raised $300 from sales of red ribbons that was donated to Tapestry Health (which offers HIV services in Western Mass).

The TRiO Club also elected officers for the 2011-12 year: Ariell Wilkins (President), Alicia Lewis (Vice President), Huldah Zobo (Secretary), and Evelyn Ocasio (Secretary). The TRiO Club looks forward to more pursuits this spring!
Why Are TRiO Programs Important?

The United States needs to boost both its academic and economic competitiveness globally. In order to foster and maintain a healthy economy as well as compete globally, the United States needs a strong, highly-educated, and competent workforce. To be on par with other nations, the country needs students, no matter their background, who are academically prepared and motivated to achieve success.

Low-income students are being left behind. Only 38% of low-income high school seniors go straight to college as compared to 81% of their peers in the highest income quartile. Then, once enrolled in college, low-income students earn bachelor's degrees at a rate that is less than half of that of their high-income peers — 21% as compared with 45%.

The growing achievement gap in our country is detrimental to our success as a nation. There is a tremendous gap in educational attainment between America's highest and lowest income students - despite similar talents and potential. While there are numerous talented and worthy low-income students, relatively few are represented in higher education, particularly at America's more selective four-year colleges and universities. While nearly 67% of high-income, highly-qualified students enroll in four-year colleges, only 47% of low-income, highly-qualified students enroll. Even more startling, 77% of the least-qualified, high-income students go on to college, while roughly the same proportion of the most-qualified low-income students that go on to college. (www.coenet.us, 2012)

National TRiO Day

Established in 1986, National TRiO Day is celebrated on the last Saturday in February in order to:

Celebrate the positive impact of federal TRIO Programs in our communities throughout the nation.

Reflect on the importance of educational opportunity programs in creating a fairer society for all Americans.

Act to protect access to higher education for students who are low-income and first-generation college students.

"In many communities throughout America, the TRIO Programs are the only programs that help low-income Americans to enter college, graduate and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life."

~ Dr. Arnold Mitchem, President of the Council for Opportunity in Education.