Greetings! Congratulations to all of you for completing another successful year!

It is with great pleasure to report to you that during the 2016-2017 academic year, SSS successfully fulfilled its grant goals and objectives by serving more than 167 qualified students. TRIO SSS retained 79% of its cohorts with 94% of the participants remaining in good academic standing. During the same year, 45% of the participants graduated with associate degrees within four (4) years and 12% of those who graduated transferred to four-year institutions. Thus, out of the 37 graduates, 10 students transferred to four-year institutions pursuing their bachelor’s degree. We celebrate the achievements of all those who have graduated during the academic year. We are proud of your achievements and encourage you to continue pursuing your undergraduate studies at institutions of higher learning.

As you may have realized, we increased our services and expanded tutoring hours to meet your academic needs and fulfill grant goals and objectives, modified monthly FAFSA workshops, sponsored and co-sponsored several student success workshops, including financial literacy workshops, toured historical and educational sites. We also embarked on the following initiatives during the academic year by launching peer mentorship, moved TRIO main office to close proximity of the TRC, built an additional advisor’s office in the TRIO Resource Center, celebrated our 20th anniversary since we opened our door at SCTCC in 1997, awarded 11 grant aid scholarships, and revamped Summer Institute to increase student’s access and success at SCTCC and beyond.

We thank all those who have completed our TRIO program evaluation and we appreciate all your feedback as it helps inform our programs and services to meet TRIO students’ needs. If you are enrolled this summer session, please know that tutoring is available for you and take advantage of these services offered at no cost to you.

As we look forward to the 2018-2019 academic year, we have a lot of exciting news and activities for you. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunities available by visiting the TRIO Resource Center (1-252). For more information and updates or check our website at www.sctcc.edu/trio.

It is my hope that you will take the time to rejuvenate during the summer break and continue to pursue your degree here at SCTCC in the next academic year. As a TRIO family, we wish you all a happy summer break with families and friends. We wish you safe travels and as always, thank you for being a part of the TRIO family. I am honored to continue serving you as your director. TRIO Works!

William Tuoy-Giel, TRIO SSS Director
TRIO STUDENTS VISIT CSB|SJU AND SCSU

TRIO Students visited three local transfer options this semester.

On February 28th, one student and a TRIO advisor toured the College of St. Benedict’s & St. John’s University in St. Joseph and Collegeville, MN. CSB and SJU are private liberal arts colleges that are partnered together. Students take classes and can utilize resources on both campuses. They have a large number of students who study abroad and have a rich performing and visual arts community. We were impressed by the beautiful campuses (and tons of dining options!). Check them out if you’re looking for a private, liberal arts college environment that’s close to home!

On March 16th, we toured St. Cloud State University with 4 TRIO students. There, we heard from Austin Johnson, Assistant Director of Transfer Admissions. We also met a panel of students and staff from the Multicultural Student Services department - a great resource for transfer students. The tour itself featured a look inside their tremendous library as well as Atwood Student Union, where students can go bowling or see a movie! We saw a number of academic buildings and learned about the transfer experience from our tour guide (who was a transfer student, too!)

TRIO STUDENTS TOUR U OF M & SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA

In April 2018, TRIO students took a field trip to Minneapolis and St. Paul to tour the University of Minnesota campus along with the Science Museum of Minnesota.

At the U of M, we learned about transfer options and met with a transfer advisor for the College of Liberal Arts. For lunch, the group ate at Afro Deli in St. Paul, an African-Mediterranean-American fusion fast casual restaurant, where we sampled curry dishes, sambusa, falafel, and baklava.

During our trip to the Science Museum of Minnesota, the students were able to visit exhibits on race, the human body, Minnesota history and agriculture, light, sound, and architectural engineering. The museum is very experiential, and we enjoyed being able to interact with the exhibits to learn as much as possible.

Pictured, top right: students pose with “Goldie” the University of Minnesota mascot. Bottom right: TRIO students in the lobby of the Science Museum of Minnesota.
TRIO GRANT AID SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Eleven SCTCC TRIO SSS students received Grant Aid Scholarships in March 2018. Those students were:

Jazz Boker
Timothy Cavalieri
Elijah Chuol
Mahamud Daad
Khadijo Daud
Julie Helms
Melissa Hostetler
Maryan Maalin
Brandon Meyer
Quentin Miller
Khaliah Taylor

The Grant Aid Scholarship is awarded each year to TRIO students who apply and meet specific criteria. These students were required to attend a Financial Literacy workshop, have a minimum cumulative GPA of a 2.5, and be on track to meet TRIO Active Participant Status for the year (3+ TRIO events/advisor visits each semester). Students also needed to meet specific financial aid requirements. Congratulations to the 2018 Grant Aid recipients!

TRIO STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT FINANCIAL LITERACY

This spring, TRIO students learned about financial literacy by attending workshops presented by US Bank employees. Topics discussed included saving money, understanding your credit score, building credit, loan repayment, identity theft, and more.

“Financial issues” remains a leading reason students quit college. When students prepare for the extra cost and potential loss of income during their college years, they are more likely to persist from one semester to the next. Financial experts recommend creating an emergency fund to have available for unexpected expenses, like car repairs or medical bills.

Consistent management of your bank accounts can also help you avoid additional costs (like overdraft fees) and identity theft. You may also begin to take note of how you’re spending your money—and may become more aware of your “wants” versus “needs”.

Credit cards can be helpful in building your credit, but they need to be carefully managed. Pay off your balance each month to avoid interest fees. If you’ve used your card for an emergency and can’t pay off the balance, pay more than the minimum payment whenever possible. Pay your bill on time to avoid extra fees and a hit to your credit score.

Register now for fall 2018

Not registered for fall classes? Now’s the time to meet with an advisor!

Register before classes fill up! No payment/FAFSA required until tuition due date of August 6th.
On April 26, we celebrated our Fall 2017, Spring 2018, and Summer 2018 graduates during the TRIO Graduation & Scholarship Reception held in the SCTCC Commons. We are proud of our 31 graduates this year, including 4 students who earned a second Associate’s degree.

**Fall 2017 Graduates**
Nawal Abdalla, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Ashley Cadreau, Paralegal AS  
Valerie Fonyam, Practical Nursing Diploma  
Kevin Huichapa, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Shukri Yalahow, Health Information Technology AAS

**Spring 2018 Graduates**
Mohamed Ali, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Katherine Bender, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Cordell Birch, Biomedical Equipment Technician AAS  
Lauren Bolser, Practical Nursing Diploma  
Naana Brown, Practical Nursing Diploma  
Miranda Coon, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Candace Croker, Dental Hygiene AAS  
Todd Fowler, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Jennifer Hanson, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Kossiwa Kessougbo, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Cassandra Kingsbury, Health Information Technology AAS  
Patrick Knutson, Biomedical Equipment Technician AAS  
Linda Koltos, Accounting AAS, Business Management AS, and Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Kathleen McCarley, Accounting AAS, Business Management AS  
Brandon Meyer, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Sahra Mohamed, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Omot Ojulu, Business Management AS  
Ochogi Opiew, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Jose Reyes, Dental Assistant AAS  
Tiffany Robertson-Hall, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Aaron Sohl, Accounting Diploma, Accounting AAS  
Fartun Suldan, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Kelly Thomsen, Office Administration AAS  
Olga Walz, Network Administration AAS

**Summer 2018 Anticipated Graduates**
Jorden Cantin, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA  
Maryan Maalin, Liberal Arts & Sciences AA

Congratulations & Best of Luck in All You Do!
THANK YOU TRIO TUTORS, MENTORS, & STUDENT WORKERS!

We are so grateful to have had wonderful student workers, peer tutors, and peer mentors in TRIO this year! Thank you for all of your hard work and help this year-you have a tremendous impact on our program!

Pictured, Front Row: Cassie Kingsbury, Alexis Zimmer, Julie Helms, Katlin Traut

Back Row: Brandon Meyer, Quentin Miller, Jorden Cantin, Jazz Boker, Kevin Huichapa, TRIO Director William Tuoy-Giel
TRIO SSS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT – TOMY NACANABO-CASSALOM

I am from West Africa/Burkina Faso and my main language is French. I am married and I have two boys. In Africa, to earn your GED, you have to take a test that will later be used to determine your major of study. I was directed toward an Administrative Assistant degree. When I moved to the U.S.A. in 2008, I had the opportunity to challenge myself and earn any degrees I wanted (I did not go shy on that). I first went to Utah to study English language and then transferred to SCTCC to earn some college credits. I have an Administrative Assistant degree from West Africa; an AA degree, Health care Technician Certificate, Health Sciences Broad field, and a Business Management degree from SCTCC; a Bachelor’s degree in Business Management from Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU), and I’m working on getting my Master’s degree at SMSU. Why all these different degrees? I did them to prove to myself that I can do it. Our brain is powerful. I currently work in the Registration Office at SCTCC as a Registration Assistant.

When you were in college, why did you apply to be a TRIO student?
I applied to be a TRIO student because of the great resources that are available to the students. I had the ability to print my assignments free of charge, be coached by amazing TRIO advisors, rent books free of charge throughout the semesters, receive a scholarship for maintaining good grades, and visit parts of Minnesota with TRIO Field trips. TRIO gives the opportunity to students to rent laptops, get a one on one tutoring, use TRIO room to study quietly, get help with Financial Aid application, and work study position; just to mention a few.

What did you value most about your TRIO experience?
I have grown so much going to TRIO. TRIO advisors are very patient with students, always friendly, welcoming and supportive. TRIO advisors encourage students to succeed by helping them (not judging). They believe in each one of the students and it is all what we need to succeed. There is no better feeling than to get a “push” from someone who believes in you. It makes you want to keep on going and further your education.

What advice do you have for college students?
When I first came in the US in 2008, my English ability was limited and poor. I was afraid to fail. My first semester was hard but I refused to set myself up for failure because that doesn´t define me. I got bad and good grades. I had some semesters of struggle and hardship but I was able to manage through it. My advice is:

- Don´t be afraid of not knowing everything and don´t hesitate to talk to TRIO advisors about any concerns you might have. If they don´t have the answer for you, they will direct you to the right department.
- Don´t let someone who gave up his/her dream of getting an education take yours away. You are smart, you are strong, and you can do it.