SPRING AHEAD

TRIO Student Support Services Newsletter

May 1st, 2015

From the Director: Nhia Yang

Greetings SSS Family! As always, I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight SSS’s accomplishments and keep you abreast of what we have in store for you next fall! As you may have heard, we are wrapping up the last year of the five year SSS grant cycle at the end of this summer. While the program is winding down, I too want to keep you posted on a promising SSS chapter that will be revealed fairly soon! Earlier this year, the SSS team collaborated with our SCTCC stakeholders to re-write a new SSS grant competition and successfully submitted it to the Department of Education. I am hopeful that SCTCC’s SSS chapter will be funded again, as we have been a part of the national TRIO movement for 18 years.

Over the course of the five year grant cycle, the SSS program has provided services to well over 800 SCTCC students. I am pleased to share that more than 600 participants served by the SSS project during the grant cycle have persisted from one academic year to the beginning of the next academic year. Roughly 680 enrolled participants exceeded the performance level required to stay in good academic standing at SCTCC. Additionally, 240 of the 800 participants graduated from SCTCC with an associate’s degree within four years, and of those 240, 40 students have pursued a bachelor’s degree within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. Our unique approach of providing one-on-one assistance to you and your constituent have finally paid off!!

Thanks to our partnerships with SCTCC’s faculty, staff and its continued support of the SSS mission, SSS not only fulfills its mission of retaining, graduating, and transferring its served students to a four year college, but it has also plays a vital role in contributing to the larger SCTCC mission, values, and priorities. It is a privilege to be a part of the National TRIO SSS program! Enjoy your summer off and I will see you soon! In the meantime, if you should have any questions or concerns we will be here for you! Thank you again!

Congratulations to Kristina Stenger:
The recipient of the $1000 MN TRIO Scholarship!

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The Stearns County History Museum provides interested individuals with an in-depth look at what the city was like at various periods of time, and TRIO students were lucky enough to be a part of the experience. Robbie Gordon reflects, “I had a fantastic experience exploring the Stearns County History Museum. The experience helped me better appreciate what our pioneer ancestors accomplished, as well as presented some interesting facts as to the history of Stearns County. I would recommend this trip to any and all future TRIO Students.”

Dinner Etiquette at Café Renaissance

Replete with lavish décor, famous paintings, and extravagant sculptures, Café Renaissance was the perfect setting to be educated on proper dinner etiquette. Patricia Bahena states:

“I personally had always been very intimidated by fancy dinners where there are numerous utensils mostly because I didn’t know how to properly use them. Through this dinner I was shown how to properly use utensils as well as how to react to servers. It was over all a great experience and the people that I got to share it with were amazing.”
Congrats to our Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 Graduates!

Tutor Spotlight: WYATT ELGARD

My name is Wyatt, and I began tutoring with TRIO during my second semester at SCTCC. The classes I tutor in include Writing, Ethics, Psychology, General Biology and Anatomy & Physiology. I am currently pursuing a degree in Nursing. Tutoring for TRIO has actually helped me do better in my classes because sometimes the best way to learn is to help someone else and work through things together. Tutoring for TRIO has been a great experience because it is a smaller community of students, so I have been able to get to know and develop relationships with most of the students that come in. There are also a lot of international students in TRIO, which has allowed me to learn a lot about them and their different cultures. Being a tutor for TRIO has helped me become a better student, and it has helped me grow as a person.

1:1 Peer Tutoring Opportunities

Is tutoring the right fit for you? Read on to find out.

◊ You need a little “brush up” on skills for a certain topic
◊ You are retaking a course for a better grade
◊ You find yourself struggling to grasp a particular topic
◊ You experience a degree of test anxiety
◊ You feel a little overwhelmed by the pace of a course
◊ You are receiving lower-than-expected grades

Seeking out a tutor has several benefits to the physical, emotional, and mental stressors of everyday college students. Tutoring can help you feel more relaxed and confident in class, while improving your attitude towards the course content—and even toward a difficult professor!

Our peer tutors are available to any TRIO student seeking academic assistance. If you wish to see what subjects are offered through our tutors, stop by the TRIO Resource Room in 1-252 to find out. If a subject is not offered by our tutors, fill out a Tutor Request Form to see if a tutor can be found.

YOU are in charge of your tutoring session, so be sure to articulate your specific needs and pace of learning to your tutor. But remember, tutors are there to help facilitate your learning journey, but they will not do your work for you!

And of course, be respectful of your tutor’s time. Be sure you are punctual and give plenty of notice if you need to cancel. Any other questions about the tutoring process can be directed to Hien Studniski, the TRIO Tutoring Coordinator.
My Year with TRIO SSS: An Intern’s Perspective

Hello! My name is Sarah Gatlin and I was lucky enough to obtain an incredible internship through TRIO SSS. What started as just a graduate school requirement blossomed into one of the most valuable experiences of my professional career. With the support of a motivated director, caring advisors, and exceptional students, I was able to gain the experiences necessary to grow into my role as a temporary TRIO SSS advisor-in-training.

Leaving my position at SCTCC will be a difficult transition. It will not be easy to say goodbye to the inspiring students and supportive team of advisors and work study staff. I could not have developed the skills and talents I now possess without their priceless guidance.

What a privilege it was to be a part of such a wonderful campus program! Whether you need an internship for class credit or just to gain experience, think of TRIO SSS first!

Words of Wisdom

“Never skip breakfast”
“Use a daily planner”
“Get enough sleep!”
“Create a study group”
“Find a study buddy”
“Create a designated study space and stick to it!”
“Do your homework early! Don’t wait until the last minute.”

Achieve SUCCESS!

TRIO SSS consistently offers FREE WORKSHOPS to its students. Attending a workshop not only counts toward active participant status, but you will learn ways to be more successful in and out of the classroom! Some topics covered in workshops include time management strategies, coping with test anxiety, financial literacy, scholarship information, and more! See your advisor for upcoming workshop dates and times.