DIRECTOR’S CORNER

It’s hard to believe that this June will mark my first anniversary serving as TRIO/SSS Director at SCTCC. This period has been very insightful as I am transitioning from a four year Wisconsin system to a two year MnSCU system. I especially want to thank my wonderful colleagues LeAnn, Beth, and Kim as well as my mentors Phil and Kerby. I am grateful for your hospitality in making my new position here a learning experience. Time certainly flies when you get to be my age!

As I reflect over the course of this academic year, we’ve accomplished a lot and have come a long way. TRIO/SSS has successfully met its grant’s goal and objectives. We have drafted a new mission statement and streamlined a process to admit new students to the TRIO program in partnership with MOSIAC and PIPELINE. Furthermore, we have collaborated with SCTCC’s Summer Boot Camp and organized two strategic planning sessions to re-evaluate our services making sure it meets the needs of TRIO students while continuing to provide FREE quality services to not only students, but its stakeholders as well.

Now going forward, TRIO/SSS has successfully integrated a new student retention tracking software called “Blumen” to the program. This program provides the TRIO team better ways to stay connected with students, generate students’ data, and to allow us to be transparent of the FREE services provided to students at all times. Additionally, it’s a great avenue for us to stay on top of the Annual Performance Report “APR” that is due every December. Switching over to Blumen has come at a perfect time and is very crucial as the SSS grant competition is also due around November-December this year.

Last but not least, congratulations to the TRIO graduates. Thank you for being a part of the national TRIO movement and for the memorable experiences at SCTCC. Whether you are planning to further your education or are joining the workforce, we wish you many successes and good luck with your future endeavors. As you are exiting TRIO, remember that you’re still a part of the bigger TRIO community nationwide. Please think of us often as you will be in our thoughts. The degree you’ve earned will take you a long way!

This spring, TRIO had 32 students registered for graduation. We coordinated a special graduation banquet to acknowledge their successes on May 19th, 2014. It was held at Café Renaissance from 4-6pm. President Joyce Helens, Vice President Phil Schroeder and Interim Dean Tarryl Clark were among the group who shared their wisdom with the graduates about what may lie ahead for them after graduation. I hope to connect with you again to celebrate your achievement together! Stay in touch as you navigate your ways in the real world. Thank you!
LEANN PUIERINGER: TRIO ADVISOR

Hello,

My name is LeAnn Pueringer and I have worked in SCTCC’s TRiO program for almost 4 years now. My education background is a Community Psychology undergraduate degree and a Rehabilitation Counseling graduate degree. I am very passionate about helping students succeed in college. My door is always open to questions or concerns that you may have so please feel free to stop in. Congratulations to the graduates! It has been a pleasure knowing you and good luck in the future! I look forward to seeing all of our returning TRiO students in the Fall, just remember that my door is always open.

TRiO Laptop Updates

Just a friendly reminder that if you have a TRiO laptop checked out that they are due May 23rd.

If you are interested in checking out a laptop, please come and see me. Depending on the program we may be able to assist. Students must meet the following requirements in order to borrow a laptop:

- Active TRiO participant
- Must maintain a GPA of 2.5
- Must show a demonstrated need (family status/financial issues) for laptop use
- Have no outstanding book or laptop loans

“Asking for help is not a sign of weakness. No matter who we are or what we’ve been through, help is always available if we are open to receive. It is impossible to know the answers to all our problems. Be open to accept help and do not allow pride to be a stumbling block for growth”. ~unknown~

BETH GRUEBELE: TRIO ADVISOR

Hello TRiO Students, my name is Beth Gruebele and I started working as a TRiO Advisor at the start of the Spring 2014 semester. I previously worked in the Center for Academic Success at SCTCC as the Science Coordinator and a Professional Tutor, so many of you may already know me. My transition to TRiO has been an exciting time; I have especially enjoyed meeting many new people and helping to coordinate tutoring in the TRiO Resource Room. I want to wish all of our graduates the best as they move on to their next endeavors. For those of you who plan to return for classes during the Summer or Fall sessions, please stop by and visit anytime.

Resource Room & Tutoring Updates

Need a little academic support? As a student myself I know how quickly you can fall behind when you haven’t fully understood a concept or you miss a day due to illness or family obligations. Remember that SCTCC offers several resources for you to get help. Many students are familiar with the Center for Academic Success (CAS) which is a full service learning center on campus with tutors available throughout the week, but did you know that TRiO students have an additional resource available to them to seek out help? The TRiO Resource Room is located in room 252 near the TRiO offices. In this space you have access to study tables, computers, and TRiO tutors. Also, if you feel you need individualized help or you are in a class for which no tutor is available, speak with your TRiO advisor. TRiO may be able to assist in setting up a one-on-one tutor for students who qualify.

Tips for academic success:

- Speak with your instructor for clarification of material as soon as you have a question.
- Find a classmate to study with; sometimes a different perspective makes all the difference in making better sense of a concept.
- Use the tutoring services and study spaces available to you on campus.
  
  CAS – Room 112, Monday-Thursday 7:30-5:00, Friday 7:30-3:00
  TRiO Resource Room – Room 252, Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30
- Make an appointment with your TRiO advisor to develop and maintain a plan for success.
- Do NOT wait to get help! Be proactive and seek out help before you fall behind.
HOW DO STUDENTS MAINTAIN “ACTIVE PARTICIPANT” STATUS IN TRiO?

Attend 3 Semester meetings with a TRiO advisor and/or participate in TRiO events. Here’s how...

- Meet with your TRiO advisor for academic, career or personal coaching, to register for classes, to complete your FAFSA, for assistance with financial aid or financial matters, etc.
- Use the TRiO Resource Room as a computer lab, study room, or to access the help of a tutor.
- Attend SCTCC student success workshops.
- Attend cultural events such as TRiO’s educational trips or SCTCC seminars.

STUDENT SUCCESS STRATEGIES:

- Attend all of your classes
- Sit near the front
- Ask questions
- Participate in class discussions
- Read your syllabus
- Check your student email daily
- Check your D2L account for updates
- Connect with classmates
- Seek out your advisor with any questions
- Take advantage of available tutoring services
- Complete all homework assignments on time
- Practice time management
- Take care of yourself

MEET OUR STUDENTS

Sarah Olson

Major: BSN

Sarah is in her 3rd year of school. She has her degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences and is pursuing her BSN. She has been working for TRiO/SSS since fall ’13. Summers are her favorite time of the year. In her spare time, she enjoys running and working out, as well as shopping and being with friends & family.

LeAnn Markel

Major: Liberal Arts (AA)

LeAnn is currently working on an AA degree. Afterwards, she plans to transfer to St. Cloud State University to become a band teacher. In her spare time, she likes to play instruments, draw, paint, or hang out with friends.

Mosesa Harris

Major: Liberal Arts (AA)

This is Mosesa’s second year here at SCTCC. She has been working for TRiO/SSS for a semester and loves it!! Working for TRiO has helped Mosesa learn new skills while getting to meet some amazing people. In her spare time, she likes to do homework, hang out with friends, and draw. Her ultimate goal is to transfer to a four year college and double major in Art Education and Public Relations.

Kristina Stenger

Major: Liberal Arts (AA)

Kristina is taking her general education courses at SCTCC. She plans to transfer to a 4-year college and major in Biology. In her spare time, she likes to study and get a head start on homework. Additionally, she loves to run and workout. The outdoors such as hiking, walking, and skiing is her favorite place to be. During the summer, she works at a Boy Scout camp where she gets to enjoy her favorite outdoor activities.
TRiO Student Support Services is a student retention program that fosters students’ academic and personal growth by providing a supportive environment and experience for first generation, income eligible and students with a disability in higher education.”