There’s always something new that we experience in the TRiO SSS program every year. So many exciting things develop, but one new dynamic stood out. The camaraderie of the students was more of a factor this year than in years past.

Almost every day, people would gather in the work area right outside our offices and study. However, along with the studying was conversation, sharing of ideas, peer-to-peer tutoring, and many other interactions. It was refreshing to hear the laughter and discussions. Even more so, friendships started to develop. People would take breaks together and often get together outside of school.

That’s an added bonus to being in TRiO. As a commuter school, it may be hard for students to feel connected to other students. We come from home, go to class and study, and then head back to our busy lives. It’s nice to know that students can become part of a program where they feel they belong.

Something else that contributed to the interaction was the varying background of the students. Young, old-ish (I know better than to call anyone old); male, female; single, married; children, no children, various races and cultures. It showed diversity and brought people together in one common bond…to get that degree.

In the end, that’s the ultimate goal…graduation. But if we can have some fun and make new friends along the way, then that’s a great thing too.

I can’t wait to see what new friendships develop when the fall semester starts in just a few weeks!

Ben

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You know it popped into my head yesterday that writing is like painting a room. In the construction field we would paint a room, prime and first coat it. Then a few of us would go back through the rooms finding imperfections. So you had a bunch of different eyes going over the same walls. You would always find something. Even after it's been gone over 3 or 4 times. Doesn't seem to matter how many time you go over it something will always pop out.

I have noticed this while proof reading. Seems like every time I read I see something or think about changing something.

I guess the hard part is to figure out when it's ok to say enough, I'm not doing anything else.

Shane Hines-TRiO Student

“Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did.”
By Helena Porter

Before I came to TRIO I was really uninformed about all the different programs that I could be a part of on campus. Also how much I learned from other students if I just listened and how much insight I could also offer to students. I was at Stark State my first semester when I had one of my instructors suggest to me that I should join TRIO so I took her advice and that was three years ago and I am so happy that I did. Being in the TRIO program has changed me for the better as far as being more intellectual, informed, and confident to do my best despite the obstacles that came my way. For my future I see a more successfully, educated, and driven individual and there is nothing that I can not do. My advice to students who are in TRiO now is that you should take advantage of networking with other students because you can learn so much from other people. Helena graduated in the Spring of 2010 from the Medical Assisting Program.

By Janet Coats

Before I came to TRiO I was a wife, mother of ten children, and even a grandmother. My life was great but I had had some difficult times in the past and began wondering how I would support my family if something happened to my husband’s income. Over a period of time and through a number of events, I realized I needed to go back to school. My family supported me in this decision but none of us knew it would be as difficult as it was or that each person would be making sacrifices for my dream to be fulfilled.

I came to TRiO after seeing a notice on one of the bulletin boards at the school. Since I was a first generation college student and also had a low income, I qualified to join. I soon learned TRiO was far more than what I thought. Cyndie sat down with me and helped me set goals. I attended classes on how to study, how to prioritize my time, and other topics. There were also social events with covered dish dinners and cultural activities where I could meet other students and get to know them. A quiet study room provided a place to get away from the crowd and complete assignments.

The college campus is large and you can stroll around and not see someone you know. So there is a good feeling about knowing there is a place you can go where the people seem eager to greet you and are interested to know what is happening in your life. It’s as though, when you walk through those doors, you belong. Cyndie, Ben, Murray, and Robin all put their work on hold and you are the most important person in their world. This has changed me because I want to make other people feel just like that. I want them to know that they are important to me by giving them my time and attention, even if it’s only for a few brief moments.

I think the most valuable advice I can give to other TRiO students is two-fold. First, consider where you are going. Know your dreams are attainable. There will always be obstacles (circumstances or people) that will try to hold you back, but don’t let them. Second, consider where you came from. When you have graduated and are established in your new job, remember that there were those who helped you to get where you are.

Plan to help someone else. In that way, the dreams of those who established TRiO will continue to live on, in your life and mine, one person at a time. Janet will graduate in Fall 2010 in Nursing.
Congratulations Graduates

Fall ’09

Oneida A. Stokes-Clay - Human and Social Services Technology
Dorothy Mack - Human and Social Services Technology
Violet McMasters - Early Childhood Education, Intervention Specialist

Spring ‘10

Aleta Bridges - Medical Assisting
Sharon Langford - Medical Assisting
Marcel McGuire - Marketing Management
Jarod Pol - Human and Social Services Technology, Gerontology Option
Helena Porter - Medical Assisting
Muriel Slaughter - Administrative Information Technology, Management Option
Jason Zink - Respiratory Therapy

Fall 2009 Dean’s List

President’s List
Jared Pol
Michael Anderson          Markesha Lawson
David Atherton           Marcel McGuire
Donna Beavers            Fatima Milnes
Amy Bracken              Christie Murdock
Shonteeva Bristow        Donna Murphy
Sandra Calhoun           Heather Ritsko
Erin Chambers            Kathryn Smucker
Shane Hines              Samantha Swab
Shantiea Jackson         Timothy Tomayko
Darlene Knepper          Christine White

Student Success Stories

Amy Bracken has been inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Adora Alexander for completing the Student Leadership Academy for 2009-2010!

Diana Smith has completed the Read Right Program and has become an excellent reader. Good job!

Congratulations to Sharon Brock on her acceptance into the Health Information Management Program!

Tiffany Lane has completed the Student Leadership Academy for 2009-2010. Way to go!

Jarod Pol has been inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Congratulations!

TRIO Student Support Services is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Division of Special Services, Title IV, Higher Education Act of 1965, ($231,000 in 2009-2010).
New TRiO Students

Janese Adams - Human and Social Services Technology
Michael Anderson - Human and Social Services Technology
Wendy Barnes - Pre-Respiratory Care
Charmaime Bass - Pre-Nursing
Jody Boyd - Pre-Nursing
David Brockett - HVAC
Anna Bucher - Legal Assisting Technology
Shamira Clark - Early Childhood Education
Karyn Curry - Pre-Medical Laboratory Technology
Tiffiny Cutler - Design Engineering Technology
Terry Daniels - Human and Social Service Technology
Belinda Gall - Pre-Occupational Therapy Assisting
Wendi Gray - Human and Social Services Technology
Ellan Gregrow - Cyber Security and Computer Forensics
Shawntae Hendree - Pre-Respiratory Care
Denise Himes - Medical Laboratory Technology
Kristain Hough - Computer Network Administration and Security
Catalina Hurtado - Pre-Nursing
Raeshawna Jamerson - Human and Social Services Technology
Jacqueline Jeffers - Early Childhood Education
Tricia Jensen - Pre-Medical Instrument Sterilization
Diane Kendall - Pre-Nursing
Yulia Landis - Pre-Nursing
Sarah Looman - Human and Social Services Technology
Neadia Matics - Pre-Nursing
Sandra Nattey - Pre-Medical Coding
April Peters - Early Childhood Education
Sheldon Picard - Pre-Emergency Fire Services
John Ramsey - Computer Programming and Database Technology
Diana Smith - Human and Social Services
Jeannette Shaub - Pre-Nursing
Holly Stubbins - Pre-Medical Assisting
Michele Summers - Business Management-Health Services
Ashley Takacs - Human and Social Services Technology
Timothy Tomayko - Marketing Management Technology
Abigail Wornica - Pre-Nursing