

# TRIO SSS NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023



2023

## CELEBRATING STUDENTS

Every year since 2020 has been filled with unique challenges and obstacles to overcome. Of note, many of our TRIO SSS grads are experiencing their FIRST in-person graduation this June - as many graduated high school virtually. Check out where our students are heading next:

11



WA State University

4



Eastern WA University

3



Continuing at WVC

5



Starting their career

3



Other Colleges/Universities



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# SPRING

## OUR STUDENTS HAVE THEIR CAKE AND EAT IT TOO

Spring quarter was eventful for the TRIO SSS team. We started out with a visit to WSU on Spring break and filled the quarter with several activities for our scholars. Here are just a few of the things we did:

- **Affirmation painting** (thank you, Ayla for facilitating this fantastic workshop!)
- **Growth Mindset** workshop
- **Scholar socials** - discussing healthy habits (v.s. routines), game days, and planting herbs
- **Cooking Hacks** - how to build quick, simple, healthy meals
- **Career Mentor Panel** - guest speakers from Moss Adams
- **LinkedIn** workshop



## SUMMER PLANS **YEP - WE'RE HERE DURING SUMMER!**

Our TRIO SSS staff are here through summer to support students. We're open Mon-Thu 8-5 and Fri 8-12 - or by appointment Friday afternoons.

AND WE'RE STILL ACCEPTING STUDENTS. APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN THROUGH THE SUMMER. REFER STUDENTS TO US FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

**UPCOMING:**



High Trek - June 21st



UW Visit - June 22nd



# WHY YOU SHOULD REFER STUDENTS TO TRIO SSS

One of the first things I tell every student when they join TRIO SSS is that I am not a replacement for their faculty advisor. Some students get confused and think of me as such. It's easy to understand their confusion; I am providing advice. But TRIO SSS is here to offer ADDITIONAL support and complement faculty advising.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2021-2022, 90% of TRIO SSS participants persisted (continue their education in 2022-2023 at WVC or transfer school)!
- & 91% of our students maintained good academic standing

So, what's the point? If students have an advisor already, why should they join a program like TRIO SSS? Let me briefly explain what TRIO SSS at WVC does and what faculty/staff (and students) should understand about our services. TRIO SSS is a federally funded program designed to help students persist, graduate, and (for most of our students) transfer to a 4-year program. We are funded to support 140 WVC students each year with hands-on, holistic academic coaching and wrap-around services. We take a case-management approach to follow each student through their time at WVC and help them transition to the next phase of their education or career.

## DID YOU KNOW?

TRIO SSS students earn good grades. Last quarter (winter 2023), our students' **GPA average was a 3.16.**

In fact, **44%** of our enrolled students made it on the **Dean's List or President's List** for winter quarter!

Yes, sometimes I do provide academic planning advice or help students track their degree progress - often in partnership with their faculty advisor or based on the guidance of our wonderful College Navigators. However, most of my work centers on building relationships with students and learning what they need to succeed. Many Hidden Curricula are embedded in higher education, even at our community college. Understanding the norms, expectations, values, and culture of WVC is an endeavor, especially post-2020 when face-to-face interactions have decreased in all areas. I am fortunate to spend 40 hours each week focused solely on helping students understand resources, expectations, and how to integrate priorities from their personal lives into their educational journey.



So, why should you connect students with TRIO SSS? Because it works. Our students earn scholarships and do well academically. They learn valuable skills to help them navigate college and have confidence in their abilities to persevere in the face of challenges that come their way.

- JENNA FLOYD

## #TRIOWORKS!



# OUR STAFF

## DANIA CONTRERAS

TRIO SSS' PROGRAM ASSISTANT



Dania is a WVC TRIO SSS alumna! After finishing her associate's degree here, she transferred to EWU. She loves Wenatchee so much she came back from Spokane and got a job here with TRIO in fall quarter

This past **winter quarter (2023), Dania graduated from EWU with her Bachelor of Arts in Communications!** Outside of WVC, she's an entrepreneur. She loves spending time with family and doing outdoor activities like paddleboarding, swimming, and hiking.

## JENNA FLOYD

TRIO SSS' RETENTION SPECIALIST



In the past year, Jenna focused on developing skills to support students. She received **certification as an Appreciative Advisor through Florida Atlantic University** and is currently

pursuing her Master of Science in Academic Advising at Kansas State University (NACADA). When not assisting students, Jenna coordinates with others on campus by participating in our Support for Learning Core Theme Council, joining the Bookstore Task Force, and volunteering to review WVCF scholarships. This year she represented WVC by participating in the UW/ Community College Transfer Advising Conference Committee and was recognized this May by the Washington State TRIO Association as "Most Resilient Team Member."

## SANDRA VILLARREAL

TRIO SSS' DIRECTOR



If you've connected with TRIO staff at any point over the past few years, you likely know Sandra. What you may not know is all she does behind the scenes to advocate for WVC, TRIO SSS, and our students.

This year, Sandra was busy serving as the **Washington State TRIO Association's East Representative**. In this role, she helped coordinate policy seminar meetings for WA TRIO colleagues with representatives Kim Schier, Dan Newhouse, and Marie Gluesenkamp Perez. She also serves as an **advisory board member for TRIO EOC at CWU** wherein she has worked with Dr. Maria Morales to increase educational access to students at WVC and in our community. Check out the TRIO EOC website for a list of their services. Additionally, Sandra laid the foundation for a **mentoring partnership with Moss Adams**. Through this partnership, she worked with Randy Fenich (Moss Adams) to bring in a career panel to talk to our students about careers in accounting and share some life experience lessons. The panelists shared their advice for first-gen students and first-gen professionals. Recently, Sandra attended the **National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE 2023)** in New Orleans with colleagues Rhonda Yenney and Cecelia Escobedo. This opportunity was funded by DEI funds and was a powerful, transformative experience on a personal level. Please stop by to chat to learn more about this inspiring experience and hear her ideas for making WVC more equitable and accessible to students.

