



Together Realizing Individual Opportunities



Life's Challenges

Cyndie Bertram
Retention Specialist, TRIO Student Support Services

Running is not my favorite sport. It's hard work, sweaty, various body parts hurt at different times, and I sometimes find it boring. Yet recently, I ran a 5K (3.1 mile) relay after preparing for a few weeks. Within the first few steps of my race, I tore my calf muscle. Was the race challenging? Yes. Was it work? Definitely. But when I finished, the feeling I experienced was very rewarding! It wasn't just a matter of letting the team down that kept me running, but that it became a personal challenge to me to finish what I had committed to weeks before. Life throws challenges our way all the time—it's what you choose to do with them that counts. I tell you this because it brings to mind finals week that is coming up soon. Finals present a challenge to many of you for various reasons. For some it's just the idea of taking a test...any test. The thing is it all starts with adequate preparation. You can't just show up for the final and expect to do well without having studied. Challenging? Yes. Many of you have jobs, families, and other responsibilities to juggle along with school. Work? Definitely! Especially if you have a comprehensive exam; how are you supposed to remember what it was you learned 12 weeks ago? Rewarding? Absolutely. When you walk out of that testing room and breathe that sigh of relief because the test is over and you know you did well because you were prepared—there's no better feeling! Life is a series of challenges which most of us choose to accept and conquer. With hard work we are rewarded many times over. Someone once said, "It isn't what you start that counts; it's what you finish." Don't give up now. Finish your race a winner!

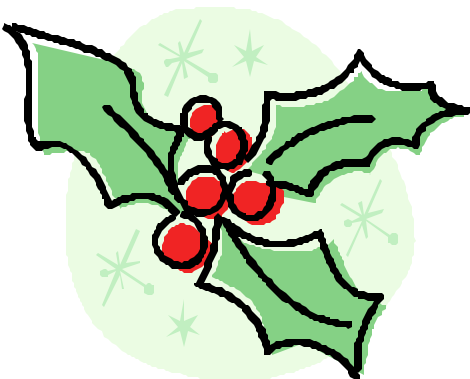
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TRIO HOLIDAY HOURS
The TRIO Offices will be closed
Monday, December 25th and will re-
open on Tuesday, January 2nd.

TUTORING in the CAL Lab
Please go to the following link for the latest Tutoring Schedule. The schedule will also be posted in the TRIO lab.
http://www.starkstate.edu/academics/files/CAL_Tutor_Fall06.pdf



Contact Information Change?

Has your address, phone, or email changed? Notify Liz Jacob at the front desk in TRIO B230 of these changes. This will ensure you are aware of activities and other information that influence your participation in TRIO.

Happy Holidays

Peer Mentors

What are TRIO Peer Mentors?

Peer mentors are students assisting peers to foster a relationship through shared experiences and expertise. They build and promote personal and academic growth with new TRIO students.

Duties of a Peer Mentor

Welcome newcomers and take personal interest in their development
Share your knowledge, skills, and experience with other students
Provide leadership and encouragement toward academic success
Build trust and foster a friendship

Peer Mentoring Qualifications

Be a current TRIO participant in good standing
Have a cumulative GPA above 3.0
Be a TRIO student for at least one semester

Please talk to Liz Jacob if you are interested in becoming a peer mentor OR if you want to be paired up with a TRIO peer mentor!

TRIO Peer Mentors

Kamille Austin

Les Brown

Maureen Cain

Dee Mack

Dean McAlbier

Denise Messier

Eve Morgan

Sherri Nisly

Paula Patterson

Ken Richardson

Michelle Watkins

Rachael Wheeler

“There is nothing like a dream to create the future.”

Victor Hugo

TRIO Scholarships for the 2007 Spring Term

Half-time Students \$100

(6-8 credit hours)

Three-quarter time students \$175

(9-11 credit hours)

Full time students \$250

(more than 12 credit hours)

Eligibility:

1. Be receiving Federal Pell Grants.
2. Be a member in good standing of TRIO.
3. Have a GPA above 2.6.
4. Be in good academic standing.
5. Demonstrate financial need.
6. Be enrolled for classes in Spring 2007.
7. Be an active TRIO student for at least one semester.

There are limited number of scholarships available. Please stop in B230 to fill out an application, or download the application from www.starkstate.edu.

The deadline for applications is December 22, 2006.

**This scholarship is not available to students who are already receiving a TRIO scholarship.*

A Mentor

I have been given the honor of becoming a mentor for the TRIO mentoring program. The first thing I had to do was find out what this meant. I found out that there are two types of mentoring; natural mentoring and planned mentoring. Natural mentoring occurs through parenting, friendship, and teaching, to name a few. Planned mentoring occurs when a mentee is formally assigned a mentor. In my case, all of my mentoring has come through natural mentoring. Now, I tried to think of who these mentors of mine were. Immediately these people that had so much influence on my life pop into my head: my cousin, who taught me to be a carpenter and gave me my first real job, my brother--who still to this day, I rely on endlessly for advice, and so many others, that until now, I never thought of as mentors but simply as friends or family. I was surprised at the strength of my feelings of appreciation for them. So strong were these feelings that I had to stop writing to phone them and thank them for their help.

The most recognized mentoring program in America today is probably the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America; it provides adults as mentors to children who help improve the children's lives, and hopefully, theirs too. I expect that as a mentor I will be able to learn from my mentee, as well as teach and advise them. Being a mentor is also my way to "pay back" my mentors to show my gratitude for their help. I want to have those feelings of satisfaction, happiness, contentment, and pride in knowing that I have had a positive influence on someone else's life and feelings, like my mentors must have felt.

The following is a passage from a note that Thomas Wolfe sent to his editor Maxwell Perkins, who Wolfe considered a mentor: "You have done what I ceased to believe one person could do for another – you have created liberty and hope for me. Young men sometimes believe in the existence of heroic figures stronger and wiser than themselves, to whom they can turn for an answer to all their vexation and grief.... You are for me such a figure: you are one of the rocks to which life is anchored." There are many forms of monetary compensation in life. As I get older I am starting to believe that the non-monetary compensation is sometimes more valuable and meaningful. I am sure that Maxwell Perkins' satisfaction upon receiving the note from Thomas Wolfe far out-weighed his compensation as an editor.

Leslie Brown



Peer mentor Les Brown with his daughters Sienna and Shi.

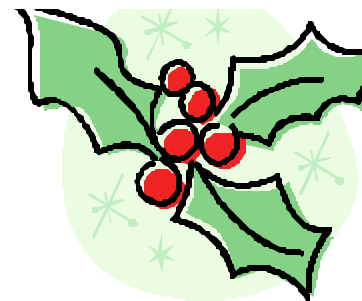
The Princess Bride Survey

If you attended the Princess Bride movie , please go to the following link to fill out the survey.

<http://www.starkstate.edu/UltimateSurvey/takeSurvey.asp?surveyID=24>

Thank you!
Your feedback is helpful.

Welcome New TRIO Students!



Danyell Allen
Gregory Archer
Kilina Archer
Katie Baldwin
Racheal Crawford
Ariel Grigas
Domonick Heard
Tiffany Hooten
Angela Johnson

Sharon Langford
Christy Martinez
Angela Miller
Joanne Parsons
Amanda Richardson
Traci Ross
Cathy Spencer
Jeffrey Tanner
Tekieyah Watkins

If you would like to share a success story, please stop by B230 and see Liz Jacob at the front desk.

NEW!

TRIO Minority Student Awareness Committee

Committee Objectives:

The Minority Student Awareness Committee will have an Advisory Board of TRIO minority student-members who will serve in several capacities. The objectives are:

- To heighten the awareness of TRIO Student Support services and programs to new and existing minority students.
- Increase involvement in appointments, program activities, Cultural Enrichment activities and utilizing all TRIO resources (i.e. computers, staff, etc.) by encouraging all active minority students to participate.
- Create a networking outlet for minority students to help foster new friendships.
- Enhance the sense of connectedness of new and currently active minority students to TRIO, the Advisory Board and other members of the program.
- Help develop new Cultural Enrichment initiatives to provide a diverse experience for TRIO students.
- Serve as role models for other Stark State College students.
- Utilize an Advisory Board of 6 to 8 TRIO minority students to help in the administration and decision-making processes of the committee.
- Elect Advisory Board members into designated positions (President, Vice-President, etc.) and re-elect new members as needed (due to graduation, transfer, etc.).

The Advisory Board of M.S.A.C. will meet once or twice a month to cover TRIO-related topics to college-wide events and issues.

Murray L. Hooten III will serve as the Adviser for this committee and will oversee the operations and functions of M.S.A.C.

Student Success

Congratulations to Kamille Austin for receiving the Hoover Minority Scholarship for the Spring 2007 semester!

Kathy Hamilton has been selected to be the class representative for the Paramedic Program. What an honor!

Joshua Jackson received an 87% on his Psychology Aspect of Therapy exam. Keep up the good work!

