

# THE BEACON

## TRIO DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES



### Director's Message

Congratulations! You have just completed mid-semester. I am certain that you are doing well in your course work and if you are not, I hope you reach out to your DSS advisors for tutoring and academic support. Remember we care for your success and want you to do well. We are available to meet your academic needs via Zoom, email, phone call or in person, whichever you prefer!

You've made it so far and you only have a little ways to go before finals week. The DSS staff wish you the best of luck and we know you will rock it!

Lastly, we wish you happy holidays as Thanksgiving and Christmas are approaching. Take time to spend quality time with family and friends!

Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd



### DSS Staff Connecting With Students

DSS advisors have been working hard to connect with as many students and staff as possible this semester. They have been busy giving presentations in many general education classes and have hosted information tables in the RSC and various other locations on campus. DSS advisors have also been networking with other advisors to inform students about services provided by the DSS program. If you happen to be walking through the RSC or see your DSS advisor present in one of your classes, please take the time to say hello. If you have a friend or know of anyone needing our services, please send them our way!



## Welcome Our New Academic Advisor/Tutor Coordinator



As many of you know, TRIO DSS was happy to add a new Academic Advisor/Tutor Coordinator in October. She will be working with students who were formerly assigned to Shukura.

"Hello! My name is Brooke Allen, and I am the new Academic Advisor/Tutor Coordinator for TRIO Disability Support Services. I have spent the last 16 years teaching in elementary schools, most of that in Special Education. I have a Master's degree in Special Education, and a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. I was ready to venture into a new career path and discovered this position at TRIO DSS. I love that I now get to help students who are older pursue their college degrees!

I like to build strong relationships and value the importance of these in our lives. I enjoy helping people highlight their strengths and celebrate the accomplishments they make along their learning journeys.

I have a passion for life-long learning and growing, so I am always seeking ways I can learn from others as well. I am excited to be here at WSU and look forward to helping and supporting students through their journeys!"

## DSS Tutor Highlights

DSS has added several new tutors to our staff this semester. See below for highlights of some of our new tutorial staff:



**Nawaz Mohammed**

**Major:** Master of Computer Science

**Subjects Tutoring:** Math, Physics, Computer Science

"I specially wanted to thank TRIO DSS for offering me an opportunity to work on campus and helping me to improve both professionally and academically. I have loved being able to assist the student in their success."



**Aakriti Karki**

**Major:** Aerospace Engineering

**Subjects Tutoring:** Math, Math Specialist

"I am so thankful to have the opportunity to work for DSS. I have learned so much from the students and staff and have had a great time."

## Become A DSS Tutor

Do you enjoy helping others? DSS staff members encourage you to consider becoming a part-time peer tutor for TRIO DSS. We currently have regular and work-study positions open for the Spring 2023 semester and are looking for individuals who can tutor the following subjects: Calculus 1 & 2, Physics & Biology. For more information, email Brooke at [brooke.allen@wichita.edu](mailto:brooke.allen@wichita.edu) or contact the TRIO DSS Office at (316) 978-5949 Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm.



## DSS Spooktacular Halloween Open House



We would like to thank all of the students and WSU staff who took the time to stop by and visit our office on Halloween. We had a great time sharing information about the DSS program and enjoying snacks and conversation. DSS staff really go into the holiday spirit by dressing up in costume and decorating the office. Our visitors voted Jasmine (Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd) as best costume and the Dia de los Muertos as best door decoration.

### Spring 2022 Scholarships

Applications are now available in the DSS office for the EOF, DSS Grant Aid (Pell recipients only) and the Phil Bowers Memorial Scholarships for Spring 2022. The deadline to submit scholarship applications is November 18th. Please contact your DSS advisor for more information or to obtain an application.



### FAFSA For 2023-2024

The 2023-2024 FAFSA is available. The priority deadline for FAFSA 2023-2024 is December 1st, 2022. Students, if you have not completed the FAFSA for the 2023-2024 academic year, please see you DSS Advisor for assistance.

### Upcoming Study Skills Workshops

There are still three opportunities left this semester to join an in person workshop. TRIO DSS participants may also earn workshop credit through the TRIO DSS study skills webpage. The TRIO DSS study skills webpage can be accessed through <https://trio-dss.webnode.com>.

Date	Time	Topic and Presenter
Tues. November 8th	11:00 AM	FAFSA: What's In It For You? by Office of Financial Aid
Wed. November 16th	11:00 AM	Planning For End Of The Year Success by Shocker Student Success
Tues. November 29th	11:00 AM	Are You Career Ready? by Career Development Center

## Organizational Tips For Success

TRIO DSS staff knows how stressful things can get, especially during the second half of the fall semester as students prepare for finals and gear up for the holidays. Consider the following tips to help ensure success in your classes:

- Attend Every Class
- Use an academic planner
- Break down assignments
- Use three-ring notebooks for class notes
- Organize and save computer work
- Keep returned papers, quizzes, and tests
- Have phone numbers for classmates
- Get organized for the next day



## DSS Ambassador Program

TRIO DSS Ambassadors act as advocates for the DSS program. They gain leadership skills by helping staff to present in classes, mentoring other DSS students, and dipping their toes into new activities such as social media planning, graphic design, and student engagement initiatives. Students interested in becoming a DSS Ambassador should contact Aiza Ortiz at [aiza.ortiz@wichita.edu](mailto:aiza.ortiz@wichita.edu).



## Reminders

- Returning students complete Intent to Continue for FL 2022
- Continue to meet with your advisor for monthly meetings
- Fill out a scholarship application by Nov. 18th
- Finals Week is Dec. 10th - 15th

### Notice of Nondiscrimination

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its employment practices, educational programs or activities on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. Retaliation against an individual filing or cooperating in a complaint process is also prohibited. Sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking are forms of sex discrimination and are prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. Complaints or concerns related to alleged discrimination may be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity or the Title IX Coordinator, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita KS 67260-0138; telephone (316) 978-3187.

### TRIO Disability Support Services

1845 N Fairmount St.  
Wichita, KS 67260-0145  
Grace Wilkie Annex, RM 158  
(316) 978-5949

### TRIO DSS Staff

Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd, Director  
Brooke Allen, Academic Advisor/Tutor Coordinator  
Aiza Ortiz, Academic Advisor/Study Skills Coordinator  
Kayleen Hallberg, Administrative Specialist/Database Manager

Keep up to date with our future events and much more! Visit our website and social media at:

<https://wichita.edu/dss>

Facebook: Trio Dss

Twitter: @trio\_dss

Study Skills Website: <https://www.trio-dss.webnode.com>