



HLC Accreditation 2020-2021

## **Evidence Document**

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Office of Special Programs

TRIO Disability Support Services

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## **The Beacon Newsletter, Spring 2021**

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**Additional information:**

# THE BEACON

## TRIO DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES



### Director's Message

Dear Students,  
It is with great pleasure that I welcome you back to another great school year. We are committed to maintaining health and safety standards, while helping you on the road to graduation and professional success! I encourage you to take advantage of the free tutoring, academic and life skills workshops, study skills development, and importantly meet with our DSS advisors on a regularly basis. The DSS staff and I are looking forward to a new semester!

TRIO DSS Director,  
Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd



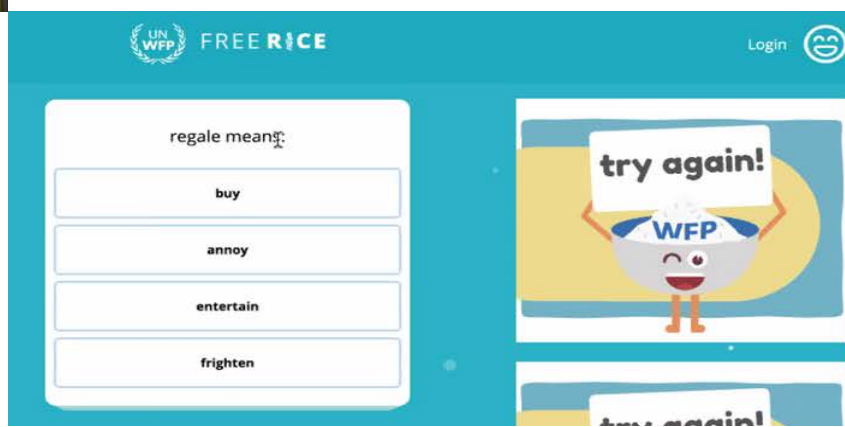
### Valentine's Day Community Service

Do you want to do something special this Valentine's Day? Here is your chance! Send a heartfelt letter to residents of the Plaza North Senior Residences. TRIO DSS joins the McNair Scholars Program as part of the National TRIO/GEAR UP Day community services project in an effort to help encourage senior citizens in our community. TRIO DSS invites you to give back to the community by participating in this fun event!

You may email or send your letter to your DSS Advisor by Wednesday, February 10th to ensure residents receive their cards on Valentine's Day. Contact your DSS Advisor for additional information.

### Free Rice Initiative Update

Last semester we supported the online FreeRice.com Initiative to help those in need. As of Feb. 1st, TRIO DSS staff and students have answered enough questions to donate 12,367 grains of rice.



## Guiding Students



## Toward Success

## Call For DSS Ambassadors

Do you want to beef up your resume? Do you love being a part of TRIO DSS and want to share your love of TRIO DSS with other students? Are you at least Sophomore standing? TRIO DSS is currently looking for students who meet the criteria to join our DSS Ambassador program. TRIO DSS Ambassadors help staff with enrollment by tabling with the staff (in normal in-person semesters), presenting to classes, talking with other TRIO DSS students, and dipping their toes into new activities such as social media planning, graphic design, and student engagement initiatives! Contact Mercedes at [mercedes.lubbers@wichita.edu](mailto:mercedes.lubbers@wichita.edu) to discuss becoming a TRIO DSS Ambassador today!

### DSS Ambassador Spotlight Meet Michael McGruder

Hello, my name is Michael McGruder. I'm a Sophomore studying sports management. I'm from Oklahoma City and I'm looking forward to what this semester holds for me. I wanted to become a DSS Ambassador because I thoroughly enjoy helping and assisting others. I love to see others succeed and I enjoy guiding them along the way.

There are several different things that I am personally looking to explore and share this semester. I've personally gotten really interested in stocks and investing. I also really like to take time to invest in myself to have some quiet time and some mental breaks. Last semester was pretty stressful, and I think with the current situation it's really important to take those necessary breaks. I also love to talk to others and get to know them. Therefore, I'm super excited about this opportunity.



## Spring 2021 DSS Ambassador Outreach Opportunities

TRIO DSS is currently working with our ambassadors to schedule Zoom meetings throughout the semester where our students can meet to discuss academics, life, and build community. Be on the lookout for announcements from your DSS Advisor!





## Spring 2021 Tutor Program

TRIO DSS tutoring will continue to be offered during the Spring 2021 semester. Contact your DSS Academic Advisor today to request a tutor. Both virtual (ZOOM) tutoring and in-person tutoring sessions are offered. Federal guidelines on social distancing and mask wearing will be strictly enforced for your protection. There are tutoring rooms available with plexiglass to provide additional protection. Tutoring rooms can be reserved ahead of time by calling the DSS office at 316-978-5949. Last day to request a tutor for the spring semester is March 26, 2021. Act now and secure a tutor as soon as possible!

## Mark Your Calendar

Mid-Semester Conferences will occur during the week of March 29 – April 2, 2021.

If you receive tutoring at any point during the spring semester you are required to attend a mid-semester conference with your DSS tutor and DSS Academic Advisor. Mid Semester conferences gives you the opportunity to reflect on your tutoring experience, to voice concerns, and to address strategies for improvement.

## 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 work-study positions open for the Spring 2021 semester. For more information, contact the TRIO DSS Tutor Coordinator, Ms. Charity Lowe at [charity.lowe@wichita.edu](mailto:charity.lowe@wichita.edu) or by phone at (316) 978-5956 Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm.

## Welcome Our New Lead Tutor: Lillian Nieman

Hello, my name is Lillian and I am a senior majoring in Biomedical Engineering with minors in Spanish and Biological Sciences. I have been a student in TRIO DSS for 3.5 years where I have enjoyed the constant support and encouragement from advisors and the community. I have also been a tutor for TRIO DSS for 1.5 years where I have tutored students in a variety of biology and Spanish courses. My favorite part of being a tutor is meeting new students in the program and watching them learn and reach their goals. As Lead Tutor, I look forward to meeting and getting to know even more of my fellow students as well as being able to support my fellow tutors in their tutoring goals. I pride myself on my integrity and my hard work and determination and I hope that with those skills I can help others. When I am not studying or working for TRIO DSS, I am also participating in research about 3D bio-printing where we are hoping to print living cells into 3D structures. I look forward to being the Lead Tutor for the semester and helping you all as I finish out my college career.





## Spring 2021 DSS Workshops

TRIO DSS workshops aren't simply something we want students to do to kill time: we hope they are helpful! Students need to complete at least one financial literacy and one study skill/career development workshop each semester, to help students feel more confident in their studies and after graduation.

There are hundreds of resources over a range of topics centering on financial literacy, study skills, life skills, career development, and more at [www.trio-dss.webnode.com](http://www.trio-dss.webnode.com), through the TRIO DSS BlackBoard listed under "My Organizations" and called "TRIO DSS Online", during our bi-monthly hosted workshops, one-on-one with your advisor, or through other departments on campus such as the Office of Career Development and the Ablah Library! Students, don't forget to fill out your pre and post surveys to receive credit. Contact the Study Skills Coordinator, Mercedes, at [mercedes.lubbers@wichita.edu](mailto:mercedes.lubbers@wichita.edu) with any questions.

## Spring 2021 Workshops Hosted by TRIO DSS

All workshops hosted by TRIO DSS for Spring 2021 will be conducted through Zoom. The Zoom link for each workshop will be emailed to TRIO DSS participants from their TRIO DSS advisor.

**Reminder:** To receive program services, all participants are required to complete one Study/Career Development Workshop and one Financial Literacy workshop each semester during the 2020-2021 school year.

Date	Time	Workshop Topic and Presenter
01/22/2021	3:00-4:00PM	<b>Preparing for the Semester</b> by Mercedes Lubbers, TRIO DSS
02/08/2021	1:00-2:00PM	<b>Career Management</b> by Office of Career Development
02/25/2021	2:30-3:30PM	<b>Basic Taxes &amp; Financial Literacy</b> by Office of Student Money Management
03/11/2021	1:00-2:00PM	<b>Conict Resolution</b> by Counseling & Prevention Services
03/25/2021	1:00-2:00PM	<b>Learning Styles</b> by Office of Student Success
04/05/2021	1:00-2:00PM	<b>To Be Determined</b>
04/22/2021	1:00-2:00PM	<b>Financial Literacy &amp; Life Skills After Graduation</b> by Mercedes Lubbers, TRIO DSS



## TRIO DSS Graduate Spotlight: Aaron Esau

TRIO DSS 2019 graduate, Aaron Esau, has created a YouTube channel where he posts more alternately abled videos showing the tasks that he is able to accomplish despite his disability. He wanted to show that just because a person has a disability, does not mean they are not capable of accomplishing the same tasks as those without disabilities. Aaron shares his thought that his videos, "may be able to inspire those that may need some inspiration." Aaron graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering Technology.

A few of his videos include "Fueling H and Hand Crank Start Up", "Apron Tying One Handed", and "One Handed Stuck Jar Opening". You can find his videos on YouTube by searching for "Plains Pirate"!



Make an appointment to meet with your DSS advisor as soon as possible to determine which services you will need and how we can best help you achieve your goals for this semester. Advisors are available via Zoom, phone, email, and in person appointments.



### Notice of Nondiscrimination

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### 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  
**Charity Lowe**, Academic Advisor/Tutor Coordinator  
**Mercedes Lubbers**, 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

Instagram: wsu\_trio\_dss

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



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