

THE BEACON

TRIO DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES



Director's Message

The staff and I are pleased to present the last issue of the DSS Newsletter for this academic year! I am so proud of our students who put so much time and effort in committing to do well in their coursework. Each year, DSS Program hosts a Student and Tutor Recognition on campus to honor our students, graduates, tutors, student achievements and the support of WSU communities. We were excited to meet in person to celebrate this year after meeting via Zoom the past two year. We want to dedicate this issue to congratulate and highlight our students' achievements! Congratulations to Joseph Sekavec for being recognized for the Tutor of the Year Award and Michael McGruder for Student of the Year Award. Besides celebrating our students, we also want to recognize a WSU staff member who goes above and beyond to help our students and collaborates with our staff to ensure DSS students are successful! This year, we want to acknowledge and recognize Isabel Medina Keiser, Director of Office of Disability Services for the Lighthouse Award.

TRIO DSS Director,
Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd

De-Stress With DSS

TRIO DSS will be hosting De-Stress with DSS on Thursday, May 5th from 1:00 - 3:00 PM in our main office. We encourage all our students to stop by the office to for a sweet treat and relax for a little while before finals week begins. Our advisors will be giving students effective study tips and strategies for finals. This would also be a good time for students enrolled in summer courses to meet with your advisor to request a tutor.

De-Stress with



Student and Tutor Recognition Highlights

TRIO DSS hosted the Student and Tutor Recognition on Tuesday, April 26th to celebrate the achievements of our students and give special recognition to our graduates, tutors, and student workers. We had a wonderful time enjoying snacks and celebrating with our amazing DSS students. Below are some highlights of the event.

Student of the Year: Michael McGruder



Michael McGruder was recognized as our Student of the Year for his exceptional involvement in the DSS program and his achievements in academics. Michael maintains a high GPA while faithfully attending DSS workshops and monthly meetings with his DSS advisor. He is also a participant in the DSS Ambassador program. The DSS staff are grateful to be able to serve students like Michael to help them succeed in class and eventually reach their ultimate goal of graduating from the university.

Lighthouse Award: Isabel Medina Keiser

The TRIO DSS Lighthouse Award is given to a WSU faculty/staff member who is a collaborator and advocate for the DSS Program. As Director of the Office of Disability Services, Isabel Medina Keiser serves many of the same students and works diligently to help DSS students to receive accommodations in a timely manner.



More Pictures From TRIO DSS Student Tutor Recognition



Spring 2022 Graduate Highlights



Graduate: Sandy Johnson

Degree: BBA in Management, Minor in Human Resource Management

What's next? Sandy will pursue a Master's degree and will be attending graduate level courses in the fall.

TRIO DSS has helped me throughout college by not only helping me in school but in my personal life as well. I had a lot of help navigating college life. I utilized the tutoring services a lot as well as using the office as a quiet place to do my school work.

Graduate: Akila Bulgin

Degree: BA in Art Emphasis, Minor in English Language and Literature

What's next? Akila will be returning home to Texas to pursue a career in the arts.

I want to sincerely thank TRIO director, counselors, and other staff. Your providing access to quality tutors, educational books and materials, and your kind support really made the difference. I am about to become a WSU graduate after lots of long days and nights of hard studying and creating a lot of art. Also, this achievement is possible because of caring people like you!



Congratulations 2021-2022 Graduates

TRIO DSS is so proud of all our graduating seniors' accomplishments. We wish all of our graduates the best of luck moving forward and we are here to support you on your journey as you continue with your careers.

Fall 2021

Athena D. Ryan R.
Angel D. Tasanya R.
Samuel E. Aunjnae W.
Lillian N. Skylar W.
Trey O.



Spring & Summer 2022

Nick A. Abbygail H. Terrance T.
Akila B. Sandy J. Yessenia V.
James D. Hayden K.
Jordan E. Lynn K.
Cameron F. Jordan S.
Margaret H. Marcia S.





Spring 2022 Tutor Program

TRIO DSS is proud to have provided tutoring for 18 different courses totaling 141 hours tutored this semester. We would like to thank our tutors for their hard work and dedication in helping our students to be successful. We want to take this opportunity to wish our graduating tutors the best of luck in their new endeavors.

2021-2022 DSS Tutorial Staff

Mira Hawkinson

Lillian Nieman

Lisa Sreepalle

Bethany Hollingsworth

Utsav Niroula

Marlene Kouakam

Leonardo Sandino Acosta

Magdalena Mollo

Joseph Sekavec



2021-2022 Tutor of the Year

TRIO DSS's Tutor of the Year is awarded each year to a tutor who consistently exceeds expectations in furthering the program's mission, vision, and values. As a program, we strive to be recognized as a model peer tutoring program for Wichita State and its affiliates. This vision comes closer to reality each day thanks to the leadership and behaviors modeled by our 2021-2022 Tutor of the Year, Joseph Sekavec. Since joining TRIO DSS's Peer Tutor Program in Summer of 2021 Joseph has represented our program values of integrity, responsibility, and respect in each aspect of his work. He consistently completed all paperwork accurately and on-time, while never failing to be available for his students if they wanted an extra review session. Kalie attended all trainings and actively participated in our activities and discussions. We look forward to continuing to work with him in the future and thank him for his outstanding contribution to the TRIO DSS Peer Tutor Program.



Spring 2022 Study Skills Program

TRIO DSS students completed a total of 45 workshops this year covering a wide range of topics. DSS staff have enjoyed collaborating with many departments on campus to present quality workshops to our students. We would especially like to thank the Office of Career Development, Office of Student Money Management, Counseling & Prevention Services, and Office of Student Success for presenting in our workshop series. If there is a topic that our students would like to see covered in Fall 2022, please submit your ideas to our Study Skills Coordinator, Madison Davis at madison.davis@wichita.edu.



TRIO DSS Student Awarded Over \$10,000 in Scholarships

Hard work pays off! TRIO DSS student, Jennifer Palma, has been awarded over \$10,000 in scholarships for the 2022-2023 school year! She applied for the WSU specific scholarships via Scholarship Universe, a centralized scholarship application portal that Wichita State began using this year. Jennifer is a sophomore, majoring in Elementary Education. She was one of few students to attend the Financial Literacy/ Scholarship workshop our office hosted in January, where she was able to receive help completing her application. Congratulations Jennifer on a job well done!

TRIO DSS Ambassadors Program

TRIO DSS Ambassadors help staff with enrollment by tabling with the staff, 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. We are proud to announce our DSS Ambassadors for Fall 2022:

Kevin Hicks

Dylan Morrow

Jennifer Palma

T'mori Wright

Michael McGruder

Elycia Nesbitt

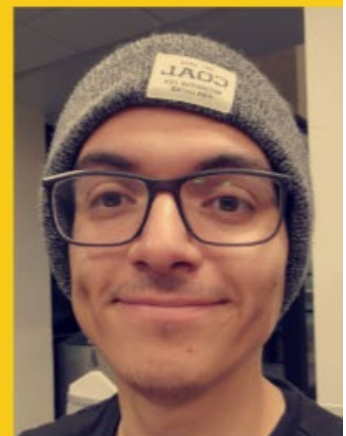
Sergio Perez

DSS Ambassador Highlight : Sergio Perez

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Hobbies: Sergio is currently working on restoring a classic car that was gifted to me, when I am not working on that I enjoy video games and learning new skills.

I really enjoy the DSS office for all the wonderful people who are a part of it. The staff really make me feel like I am valued on this campus, and always do their best to help in any way they can if I have personal issues or academic issues, I know I can come to the office and get the advice I need.



Student Highlight: Tmori Wright

Congratulations to Tmori Wright who has been on the semi pro basketball circuit since 2020! A Wichita South High school graduate, Tmori wanted to try something different in life, so he took a leap-of-faith and tried out for the Dallas Heat basketball team but played for the Wichita Wizards averaging 14 points and 9 rebounds per game. Today, Wright proudly wears the number 1 jersey for the Oklahoma City Servants. Though the season is just beginning for the Servants, Tmori is at the right place to help the team towards a winning season. When asked what brought Tmori to the game of basketball, he shared that he started as a child playing Bidy ball. However, Tmori added that he understood the importance of getting an education and finding a career. Today, Wright is a senior majoring in computer science. His goal is to build a network within the basketball community that will allow him to use his degree. This is important for himself and his family. He quotes "People thought you had to hoop to make it out, but I want to let people know that I am successful at both."



- Submit your tutor request for Summer and Fall
- Complete Intent to Continue for FL 2022 (link will be emailed soon)
- Complete the End Of Year Evaluation
- Continue to meet with your advisor for monthly meetings

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TRIO Disability Support Services

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Grace Wilkie Annex, RM 158
(316) 978-5949

TRIO DSS Staff

Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd, Director
Shukura Bakari-Cozart, Academic Advisor/Tutor Coordinator
Madison Davis, 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>

