Congratulations TRIO Scholars!

You have P.U.S.H. ed through to the end of another academic year! Can you believe about a third of this semester has been dominated by the COVID-19 crisis? Even in the midst of this pandemic, you’ve proven that persistence works and is essential if you are to reach your final destination, graduation! Your TRIO family is so very proud of your accomplishments and your increased perseverance and determination, to not only persist, but to “carry on” regardless of the situation or circumstances. You’ve added “extra” to ordinary and achieved some extraordinary things, regardless of what it looked like when the transition to online learning began.

Congratulations to our 30 Alumni Scholars! It goes without saying that you will not forget your senior year but, I believe the spring semester will be the most memorable. You will remember how you looked the challenge of your senior year but, I believe the spring goes without saying that you will not forget the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis? Even in the midst of this pandemic, you’ve proven that persistence works and is essential if you are to reach your final destination, graduation! Your TRIO family is so very proud of your accomplishments and your increased perseverance and determination, to not only persist, but to “carry on” regardless of the situation or circumstances. You’ve added “extra” to ordinary and achieved some extraordinary things, regardless of what it looked like when the transition to online learning began.

In addition to academic resources, we awarded $30,500 in grant aid to deserving participants for the academic year, including $6,400 for summer school! The recipients were active and met the criteria for this free financial assistance! Remember our motto: ACTIVE TRIO Scholars get TRIO DOLLARS! Grant aid is TRIO dollars given to offset loan debt or help cover unmet need. It is not meant to supplant financial aid, but to supplement the award you receive. You must be a Pell Grant recipient to receive TRIO Grant aid. If you were a recipient, congratulations on doing your part to “earn” this free funding! We are excited to be able to offer $15,000 in free scholarship money for the fall ’20 semester to deserving, “active” Scholars!

As most of you know, summer ’19 marks the end of the 5 year grant cycle for TRIO Student Support Services. We have written for another 5 year grant and have every reason to believe we will get it. So, we look forward to seeing our returning Scholars as well as new additions to our TRIO family starting fall ’20. In the meantime, stay safe by social distancing and wearing a mask and by all means... keep P.U.S.H. ing! Mrs. J ITTROWorks

The Director’s Corner

Wildfire

The TRIO Director’s Corner

New Letter

Virtual Celebration for Spring Graduates Highlighted with Former Retention Specialist as Keynote Speaker

Ms. Willingham

Guess who’s back? It is such an honor and a privilege to be back with my Georgia Southern and TRIO family! For those of you who know me, you know that one of my favorite personal affirmations is to declare that “I’m a winner!” So this semester, we’re reporting live from the Winner’s Circle! Winning can be defined as one that is successful especially through hard work and hard work. Here’s a winning story that I would like to share with you! Once there was an older man who had experienced a lot of hardship in his life. He was living off of $105 in social security checks. At the age of 65, he decided things had to change. As he thought about what he had to offer, he recalled how his friends raved about his chicken recipe. As a result, he left Kentucky and traveled to different states to try to sell his recipe. He told restaurant owners that he had a mouthwatering chicken recipe. He offered the recipe to them for free, just asking for a small percentage on the items sold. Sounds like a good deal, right?

Unfortunately, not to a lot of restaurants. After multiple rejections, he still refused to give up! He believed that his chicken recipe was something special! When he finally received a “yes”, Colonel Hartland Sanders changed the way Americans eat chicken. Kentucky Fried Chicken, popularly known as KFC, was officially born!

Moral of the story: When facing adversity, remember to keep P.U.S.H. ing, never give up on your goals and always believe in yourself! Have a great summer and don’t forget that YOU ARE A WINNER! Ms. Willingham

A Word from Mrs. Schrantz

Academic Success Coach

In academic coaching sessions, we often talk about metacognition and academic mindset. These two terms encompass the idea that students should be aware and understanding of their thought processes and should hold the belief that actions of motivation, strategic learning, and perseverance can positively impact academic success. As we embark on a new semester, remind yourself of all of your personal and academic accomplishments. Reflect on the moments that made you P.U.S.H. What did you learn from these moments? What worked for your success and what held you back? Use this reflection to guide you on to the next semester to ensure that you are actively seeking ways to improve and better yourself as a student and as a TRIO scholar. Ms. Schrantz

It has long been the tradition of TRIO Student Support Services, Armstrong/Liberty Campuses to end the year with a celebratory, closing awards brunch. The brunch has served as an opportunity to congratulate our graduating seniors as well as reward TRIO scholars for a job well done inside and outside the classroom.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented us with challenges in honoring our students. Due to restrictions with gatherings and social distancing, we were forced to cancel our traditional celebration. Though the campus celebration was cancelled, it did not in any way dampen our spirits when it came to our participants, especially those who had reached their ultimate goal, achieving their bachelor’s degree. Given this new normal, TRIO wanted to send our seniors off knowing we wished them well and that we were proud of their accomplishments! Though we were unable to give other awards, we were determined to recognize our graduates and highlight their academic achievement in a virtual setting.

The Virtual Graduation Celebration was held on Saturday, April 30 and began with a rousing welcoming and introduction of guests by our Director, Mrs. Corine Ackerson-Jones. Introduced by TRIO Alumna and former part-time TRIO staffer, Ms. T’Keyah Sutton, former TRIO Retention Specialist, Dr. Thomas Bullock, now Dean of Adult Education at Savannah Technical College, served as keynote speaker. He challenged our graduates to aim high and be a part of the solution and not the problem. He also encouraged them to continue to P.U.S.H through life’s challenges and never take for granted the opportunities presented to them.

Graduates were represented by a slide in the virtual ceremony. Ms. Willingham, TRIO Retention Specialist, presented each slide recognizing the graduate’s degree program, guiding principle and future plans. Ms. Linnea Schrantz, TRIO Academic Success Coach, saluted graduates who achieved the Dean’s and/or President’s List from spring ’19 to fall ’19. Mr. Tajae Francis, Alumni Relations Coordinator, greeted the new alumni and the program culminated with greetings from Dr. Mark Whitesel, Interim Associate V.P. for Student Affairs, offering congratulatory remarks. The Armstrong/Liberty Campuses and Statesboro Campus TRIO programs collaborated to develop a “virtual yearbook” for the graduates from both programs. Congratulations TRIO Alumni!
TRIO Recognition and Awards

This spring, Essence Flakes, Respiratory Therapy student and TRIO participant was trained as a VOCSN (Ventilator, Oxygen, Cough Therapy, Suction, Nebulizer). Super User at Emory University Hospital (EUHM). EUHM is the first hospital in Georgia and the second in the Southeast to purchase this multifunctional ventilator. It’s called the “Tesla of Ventilators” and is composed of five machines packaged in one unit. It’s definitely a game changer in the respiratory care profession. Essence received high praise from the staff for her “eagerness to learn and her willingness to welcome the challenges of patient care”!

Congratulations Class of 2020 – The Class with Perfect Vision We are proud of you!

TRIO Scholars Clear Important Hurdle to Earning the RRT Credential

The Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credential is nationally recognized as the “standard of excellence” for respiratory care professionals. The first examination for earning the RRT is the Therapist Multiple-Choice (TMC) Examination. The TMC Examination evaluates the abilities required of respiratory therapists at entry into practice and determines eligibility for the Clinical Simulation Examination (CSE). The RRT credentials are used as the basis for the licensure in all 49 states that regulate the practice of respiratory care. Congratulations Ben Giraud, Monica Ellis and Essence Flakes on passing the TMC exam!

TRIO Scholar Health Professions Programs Fall ’20 Admissions

Retha Webb – Nursing
Derrick Murray – Radiologic Sciences

Congratulations to Scholars Accepted into the McNair Scholar Program Spring ’19!

Adalis Ball
Adebayo Bello
Devon Golden

Spring Graduate Job Offers

Kristina Sturdivant, RN – St. Joseph’s, Medical Surgical Unit

Staff Accomplishments

Congratulations and Farewell to our graduate Assistant, Khazema Rauf, Master of Healthcare Administration. Thank you so much for your service to TRIO. We wish you the best of luck with your future endeavors.

Exciting, Noteworthy and Impressive TRIO Alumni News

Congratulations to TRIO Alumna, Alazay Streeter for being accepted into the Disney College Program at the Walt Disney Resort. We are so proud of you for this major accomplishment and wish you the best of luck with your program!

Contact Us

Phone: (912) 344-3023
Email: trio@georgiasouthern.edu
Solms Hall 212

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