

The aSSiStant

Student Support Services Graduation 2013 Issue

The Student Support Services/TRiO (SSS) program supports WVU and Student Affairs as a student-centered environment by providing individualized services to students, who are first-generation, income eligible, and/or have a learning or physical disability. Based on their needs and goals, SSS assists them with academic accomplishments, as well as social and cultural enrichment so they may successfully complete baccalaureate degrees.

Remarks from the Director

The time is here- the end of your undergraduate journey and the beginning of a brand new one. It goes without saying that we at SSS are enormously proud of you. You have just taken a ride on one of the most exciting roller coasters of life that anyone can ever hope to experience- College. For many, this now means that you will officially enter the career world and secure jobs in the fields for which your education prepared you. For others, you are going to embark on another educational journey and begin your graduate programs. Wherever your paths may lead, I hope that you find happiness and fulfillment in your lives.

Undoubtedly, you will face challenging times because life rarely gets less complicated or easier as we get older. So, in times of trial, remember to have faith in yourself and your ability to plow through the difficulties that will arise. Do not allow anyone or anything to harm your integrity, to alter your attitude or to shake your confidence. Do not be swayed by those who are eager to define you or who try to place limits on your capabilities. Instead, surround yourself with people who accept you without conditions and support your endeavors.

After graduation, get involved in something that is meaningful to you and give back to the communities in which you will become a part. Stay connected to TRIO and advocate for people trying to improve their lives through education. Donate items to a food pantry, help someone learn how to read, become a mentor to a child who needs you, or help a young person go to college. Volunteer and use your talents for the good of the world. Listen. Also, remember to have fun and laugh every day. A good sense of humor is important and often makes the difference between a good day and a bad one.

Finally, take a few moments to close your eyes, visualize where you want to go with your life, consider the person you want to be and determine the legacy that you want to leave behind. Then, act upon your intentions. This is a most exciting time in your life because there are no limits right now, only a world of possibilities.

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."

~Henry David Thoreau



CONGRATULATIONS 2012-13 GRADUATES!

Nicholas Ashley
 BA Communication Studies

Alan Ayala BS Business Administration (Finance)

Laasha Bacon
 BS Exercise Physiology

Carmen Bowes BA PsychologyDominique Brown BFA Theatre

Jay Bumgarner BS Industrial Engineering

• Ashley Burris BA Communication Studies

Devon CoateToby DevineBA CriminologyBS Mathematics

Ethan Fisher
 BS Recreation, Parks, and Tourism

Shirlee Francis BS Nursing

• Brian Hall BS Business Administration (Business Management)

Tyree Harmon BS Business Administration (Finance)

Benjamin Harper
 BS Computer Engineering & BS Electrical Engineering

Glenn Hess BFA Art & Design (Printmaking)

Rachel Lama BS Exercise PhysiologyJonathan Legg BS Mining Engineering

Angela Martinez BS Environmental & Natural Resource Economics

Azsra Mathar
 BS Exercise Physiology

Devin McMillen BA Psychology
 Charlie Mullins BA English
 Milda Mullins BS Journalism

Ankur Patel BS Business Administration (Marketing)

Ricardo Perez BA CriminologyKayla Pomp BS Nursing

Kassey Riffle
 BA Sociology & Anthropology & BA History

Greg Riggs
 BA Criminology

Jodie Rose BS Agribusiness Management & Rural Development

Leighton Roush Bachelor of Music

Susanna Samms BA International Studies

Brittany Szafan
 BS Biochemistry & BS Animal & Nutritional Sciences

Trent Taylor
 BS Business Management (Accounting)

Megan Whetzel BS Exercise Physiology

Joey Wheatley BS Geology

Chelsea Wilfong BSW (Social Work)

You are educated. Your certification is in your degree. You may think of it as the ticket to the good life. Let me ask you to think of an alternative. Think of it as your ticket to change the world.

~Tom Brokaw

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Megan Whetzel
Petersburg, WV
BS Exercise Physiology with a minor in Communication Studies



"My plans after graduation include attending physical therapy school or getting a Master's degree in public health."

"I loved the SSS program because of the opportunities it gave me as a first generation college student. The overwhelming kindness from the faculty was very helpful in my transition to college and throughout the years. I have been very thankful to be in this program and definitely recommend it!"

Megan has been involved with the Exercise Physiology Club, where she held the position of co-president. She is also the historian of the Student Health Advisory Board, a Mountaineer Maniac, as well as a member of the honor fraternity Phi Sigma Theta, and a member of P.A.W.S.

Greg Riggs Byesville, OH BA Criminology



"I have applied to law enforcement agencies in the state along with a guard job. After a year, I would like to come back to school and work on a Master's degree in hopes of one day going to the FBI."

"The SSS program helped take the pressure off of being a first generation college student my freshman year here. They helped me to make the transition from high school to college without having much difficulty. The semester meetings helped, not just to double check my own scheduling skills, but to have a friendly conversation with someone who didn't just look at you like a student. The best part of

the SSS program is the people that provide a friendly environment and are always there to give help when you need it."

Greg has worked multiple jobs to help put himself through school while maintaining an outstanding GPA and serving as a Teaching Assistant.

Shirlee Francis
Blacksville, WV
BS Nursing



"My after graduation plan is to remain in Morgantown and work at one of the hospitals in the labor and delivery unit."

"SSS was very helpful with scheduling and financial aid assistance. It's just nice to have someone to call internally at WVU to answer questions."

Shirlee will be graduating cum laude. She has successfully maintained her Promise scholarship while completing the nursing program and raising her 3 year old daughter Sydnee.

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Ricardo Perez Manhattan, NY BA Criminology with a minor in Spanish



"My hope is to get into Graduate school in Spring 2014 for a Master's in Public Administration, or Law School in Fall 2014."

"It is well known that the counselors in SSS do more than just advise; they console, mold, nurture, and care for the students. And for that I personally thank you."

Ricardo is looking forward to attending the Solidarity Immersion event being held in the Dominican Republic from August $15^{th} - 18^{th}$. It is a trip developed by student organizers across the United States who collectively come together to join the fight against sweatshops. It is a chance to join leaders in the movement for social justice across the Dominican Republic and Haiti, as well as the larger global context.

Ethan Fisher
Hacker Valley, WV
BS Recreation, Parks, and Tourism with a minor in History



"My plan is to get a full time position in the state park system."

"My favorite part about SSS was all of the friendly help I was able to receive."

Ethan has worked at Holly River State Park during the summers throughout his college career.

Kassey Riffle
Weston, WV
BA in both History and Sociology & Anthropology



"I plan to attend the Masters of History program at WVU this fall."

"The thing I liked best about SSS was the friends that I made, and the support and help given by the amazing office staff during these past three years."

Kassey is a member of the McNair Scholars Program.

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Rachel Lama Miami, Florida BS Exercise Physiology



"My after graduation plan is to apply to the Fast Track Nursing Program."

"SSS has offered me tutoring, printing, job opportunities, frienships and relationships, caring staff, cultural events, informational programs, and having my mother as my teacher, not once, but twice."

Rachel is President of the Exercise Physiology Club and Vice President of the Alpha Lamda Delta Honors Society. She has also been involved with the Medical and Dental Brigades and has been a Suder Scholarship recipient for the last 4 years.

Milda Mullens
Rio, West Virginia
BS Journalism, specialization in Television Journalism, with a minor in English



"After I graduate, I am attending the P.I. Reed School of Journalism for the MSJ graduate program."

"Student Support Services is filled with outstanding people who provide both a pleasant atmosphere and are an immense help. I couldn't be more thankful for the help SSS has given and that is what I've liked best about my participation with SSS. Student Support is an amazing organization and I'm honored to be a part of it."

Milly is a McNair Scholar as well as a newscaster for WWVU-FM U92 The Moose (WVU's college radio station). She has also received the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Brittany Szafran Moundsville, West Virginia BS Animal & Nutritional Sciences and Biochemistry with a minor in Japanese Studies



"I will be attending Mississippi State University for 7 years starting at the end of the June to complete both a DVM (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine) and PhD in Environmental Toxicology."

"My favorite part was how helpful Cindy was to me. Thanks!"

Brittany is a Hearts of Gold Service Dog Volunteer, Fencing Club President, Mentor for the International Mentoring Program, IEP Conversation Partner, Honors College, Guest Services Intern for WVU Arts &

Entertainment, Davis-Michael Pre-Veterinary Scholar, Study Abroad to Costa Rica and Nicaragua to Castrate Animals, Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia Volunteer, Oglebay Good Zoo Animal Care Intern (Summer 2011), HSTA Scholar, HSTA Summer Camp Weekend Team Leader (Summer 2011), and Intern/Relief Staff at Cheat Lake Animal Hospital Emergency Services, Pre-Veterinary Club.

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

Jodie Rose
Oldtown, Maryland
BS Agribusiness Management & Rural Development

"My future plan is to manage a large scale farm."

"I liked that SSS provided me with an extra counselor other than my academic advisor. It was very helpful having an additional person to answer questions and to help."

Jodie has helped raise animals throughout her life and currently has a pet goat named Chippy. She is a member of the Dairy Science Club, 4-H, and Future Farmers of America.

Tyree Harmon
Newark, New Jersey
BS Business Administration (Finance) with minors in Leadership Studies and Sociology



"I plan to attend Texas Tech in the fall and earn my Masters degree in Financial Planning."

"I appreciate all the help SSS has provided and I especially enjoyed the Don Asher workshop."

Tyree is a McNair Scholar and has been accepted into one of the top financial planning programs in the nation. He has completed two study abroad trips – one to the Czech Republic and the other to Poland. Tyree has served in the Finance Club and has volunteered with Ronald McDonald house.

A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad.

~Theodore Roosevelt

SSS Testimonial Sheet for Graduates

Please share any information about your personal college journey and discuss how SSS helped you as a college student (you may use the back if you need additional room):
What did you like most about the SSS Program? (You may use the back if you need additional room.)
Name:
Phone Number:Email Address:
Mailing Address:
May we use your responses and name in our publications such as program brochures, website and/or view books?YESNO
Return form to: WVU Student Support Services/TRIO, PO Box 6230, Morgantown, WV 26506-6230 or fax to 304-293-3044

Don't Forget to Stay Connected to TRIO! Please complete the alumni survey for our WV TRIO Association at http://www.wvtrio.org/index.php/alumni/ and join the national TRIO Alumni Community by visiting www.TRIOALUMNI.US or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thentaa or on Twitter at www.twitter.com/thentaa.



Student Support Services Mission Statement

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Student Support Philosophy

The Student Support Services/TRiO (SSS) program at West Virginia University provides high quality programs and services while holding to the values of honesty, integrity, compassion, fairness and Love. We encourage growth of our students through personal responsibility and respecting the dignity of all people.

Student Support Services/TRIO

709 N. High Street 304-293-6629

PO Box 6230

Morgantown, WV 26506-6230 http://sss.wvu.edu/