On Saturday, February 13, several SSS participants and guests braved the cold temperatures to volunteer in the Morgantown community. With service activities coordinated by WVU Center for Service & Learning Americorps members, SSS participants made craft kits for Ronald McDonald House and put together treats for local nursing home residents. After lunch, students and staff delivered the Valentines to both Mapleshire and Sundale nursing homes, and played bingo with residents.

SSS Junior Vicki Cooper attended TRiO service day, and noted that she “liked playing bingo with the nursing home residents because it was really fun, and you could tell that they appreciated having someone to talk to. When you live in a community, it’s important to give back. Plus, helping others is just the right thing to do.”

TRiO Day was created in 1986 with the goal of drawing attention to the needs of the TRiO student population, and the importance of investing in their future through education and civic engagement. Designed as a “National Day of Service,” TRiO programs are encouraged to devote the day to serving their communities as a way to say “thank you” for their support. As WVU senior Adam Cruz adds, “We have to pay it forward. SSS kids have been helped, now we need to help others.”

WVU’s SSS program was joined by representatives from the WVU McNair Scholars program for part of the day’s activities, and WVU Upward Bound donated craft supplies for the service projects.
SSS Drop-In Tutoring
Mondays: 10:30am – 12:30pm
Tuesdays: 2:30pm – 5:00pm
(Lair room varies, check schedule in SSS office)
Meet with SSS tutor Ellen Aguilera for assistance with all of your Math and Science classes!

Sophomore LaDonna Adams (left) organized the WVU APO St. Baldrick’s fundraising event for childhood cancer research on March 30. LaDonna is pictured here with SSS participant and APO President, Vicki Cooper. APO raised over $800 for St. Baldrick’s at the event.

Summer Financial Aid FAQ

Am I eligible for summer financial aid?
You must meet 3 criteria to be eligible for consideration:
1) Register for at least 6 credit hours in summer term.
3) You cannot have already borrowed the maximum annual federal loan limit this year.
See the following link for more details on Financial Aid summer eligibility: [http://financialaid.wvu.edu/summer-financial-aid](http://financialaid.wvu.edu/summer-financial-aid)

Can I take classes at another college near home?
First, check the WVU Transfer Equivalency System to see if the classes you would like to take will transfer: [http://admissions.wvu.edu/admissions/university-requirements/transfer_equivalency](http://admissions.wvu.edu/admissions/university-requirements/transfer_equivalency)
Second, schedule an appointment with your academic advisor to complete a Transient Student Application.

ADVISING CORNER

GEC requirements are being replaced with new GEF system… Which one should you choose?

What is GEF?
GEF stands for General Education Foundations. GEF includes 8 core learning areas (31 – 37 credits total), including 9 credits of “Focus,” which allows a student to choose electives of personal or professional interest. The GEF system eliminates the previous writing emphasis course requirement (individual colleges may implement this at their discretion), and reduces the number of general education credit hours needed to graduate.

Should I follow GEF or GEC requirements?
Beginning with the Fall 2016 – 2017 academic year, new GEF requirements will replace the GEC system for all incoming freshmen. Current WVU students can choose if they would prefer to follow the GEC or the new GEF system. Discuss your options with your adviser to determine which system works best for your degree plan.

First year student Briana Rumney is a Human Nutrition & Foods major. Her program is requiring her to switch to the GEF system. “I’m happy with the switch. I have two fewer classes to take, and my courses are all mapped out for me.”

CONGRATULATIONS, McKenzi Day and Savannah Carr!
First year students McKenzi and Savannah won the national Compansol BEST scholarship essay contest. Way to go!
WV TRiO Student Leadership Conference

April 1 – 3, 2016

Thirteen SSS participants from WVU attended the 15th annual WV TRiO Student Leadership Conference in Flatwoods, WV, during the first weekend of April. Students spent the weekend networking with their TRiO peers from WV and surrounding states, and attending leadership workshops on topics such as advocacy, community service, overcoming adversity, goal-setting, and team-building.

During the conference, WVU SSS participant Hillarie Loretta was honored with the Anne Crum Director’s Award for her resilience and accomplishments as an undergraduate student. Hillarie plans to use the skills she gained at the conference in her future career as an elementary school educator.

SSS Student Achievements

Mike Mace married Lindsey Eastburn on February 13.

Paige Stanhope was accepted to the WVU School of Social Work.

David Mersing, Rachel Petrie, Shelby Bradford, Adam Cruz, and Mariah Felty were accepted into the WVU McNair Scholars Program.

Ashley Robinson was accepted to the WVU School of Pharmacy.

Megan Tenney was accepted to the Pathologists’ Assistant program at Rosalind Franklin University in Chicago.

Patty Bailey accepted a temporary teaching position with Clay-Battelle High School.

Paige Stanhope is thrilled to be in the School of Social Work’s class of ‘18!

Top left: WVU SSS participants and staff smile before the Anne Crum Awards Banquet. Top right: Award recipient Hillarie Loretta (center) poses with SSS Director Cindy Drumm and Counselor Vivian Céspedes. Left: Mariah Felty and Destiny Jackson participate in conference team-building activities.

Joey Smith won the College Goal Sunday drawing for a free Samsung tablet!
Dress for Success at Your Next Interview

Research has shown that employers typically determine if an interviewee is right for the job within the first 10 seconds of meeting him or her (Forbes.com). Consequently, your attire, grooming, and polished appearance are of utmost importance when you’re interviewing for any position, whether it’s a part-time summer job, an undergraduate research position in a professor’s lab, or your dream graduate school. Take your tips from SSS students Mikayah Irwin (below, left) and David Mersing (below, right), who are modeling perfect interview outfits. For the record, they both aced their interviews!

Student Support Services 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.

Contact Information

P.O. Box 6230, G-30 Mountainlair
Morgantown, WV 26506
(304)293-6629
http://sss.wvu.edu

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, April 6: Sign-up in the SSS office for tickets to see The Illusionists perform on April 13.

Wednesday, April 13: The Illusionists performance at the CAC, 8:30pm

Monday, April 25: SSS Graduation and Recognition Banquet, 5:00pm – 7:00pm, Mountainlair Gold Ballroom*

Thursday, April 28: Last day to withdraw from The University

Friday, April 29: Last day of classes

Monday, May 2 – Friday, May 6: FINAL EXAMS WEEK

May 13 – May 15: Commencement Weekend

*Planning to attend the SSS Graduation and Recognition Banquet? Please RSVP to SSS_TRIO@mail.wvu.edu or call (304)293-6629.

Stay connected with all of the latest news and updates from WVU Student Support Services:
Current SSS Participant? Join our “WVU Student Support Services/TRiO” Facebook group!
WVU SSS Supporter or Alumni? Join our “WVU SSS/TRiO Alumni and Friends” Facebook group!

Thanks to WVU SSS Alumni Rachel Pulsifer & Deonna Gandy for their TRiO advocacy during the recent TRiO walk on Capitol Hill

Student Support Services is a federally-funded grant program. Funded by Title IV TRiO grant from the United States Department of Education. The project services are free to eligible students. SSS is an Equal Opportunity in Education project and, therefore, does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, or disability.