

# Golden Bear Ready!

WVU Tech TRIO Student Support Services

Vol. 2 Issue 1 Summer 2016

## Student Support Services Wraps up Successful Year, Plans for a Busy Fall Semester

via WVU Tech University Relations

The semester is winding down and many departments at WVU Tech are already gearing up for August. Student Support Services (SSS) at WVU Tech is one such program, and the team at SSS has big plans for a busy fall.

The program served more than 200 students in the 2015-2016 academic year. It offers a wide range of services to students who qualify as low-income, first-generation or disabled. Program participants also have access to unique off-campus cultural and professional development events.

This year, for instance, the program took 20 students to see STOMP at the Clay Center on April 24. Another group of students saw the Blue Man Group in March. In April, a group of six SSS students attended the 15th Annual TRIO Student Leadership Conference in Flatwoods, West Virginia. The conference drew in 170 attendees from West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

SSS Director Scott Robertson said that attendees participated in hands-on, intensive leadership development sessions. They also participated in a community service project to help out the YWCA in Charleston. Robertson saw his own group become stronger as they built tangible leadership skills throughout the course of the program.

"They worked with peers from other schools in their age range to develop leadership skills that they can bring back to campus and implement in the classroom and in their student organizations. Some of them are applying to be resident advisors, so they'll be able to use those skills in that setting as well," he said.



### SSS Staff



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Continued on page 3

# Top Ten Tips for Upcoming Seniors

By Tavon Johnson, SSS Peer Mentor/Tutor



These ten tips are based off my own personal experience dealing with the pressure of being a graduating senior.

#1—Take your nap NOW!

#2—You should have listened to Step 1, now nap time is over. The next 9 months will be spent working harder than you imagined your senior year would be.

#3—Start Job Applications in the fall, talk to career services. Perfect your resume. Similarly, start those applications to Graduate School.

#4—Expect setbacks. Learn from them, and build on them. But always have a backup plan.

#5—Use scheduled recesses (Thanksgiving, Winter, and Spring break) to your advantage. Visit the city you would like to work in, try and schedule tours of the company you've applied to. See if you can arrange an in person interview during those times.

#6—Spring Semester is now here. KEEP UP! Start your semester strong, if and when things get hectic around or after midterms you will need that cushion under your grade.

#7—Remember Step 4? Don't let setbacks occur from something you are in control of.

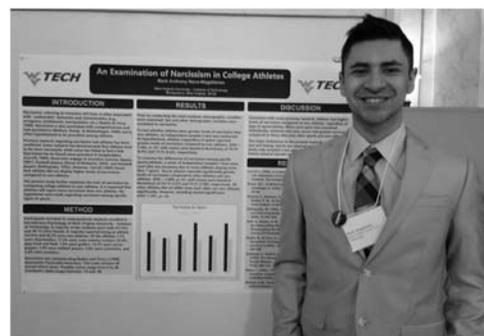
#8—Save money as much as possible. I know, YOLO, but who do you think plans to pay the \$1,000 deposit on your new apartment in June? Or the \$600 unexpected car repair? Mom and Dad can only do but so much. Be mindful.

#9—Have FUN! Fun doesn't have to be drinking or spending money every weekend, fun can be anything you enjoy. Chilling with friends, talking, laughing, singing, going to see shows or concerts. There are many free events on campus and in Charleston or Beckley, check them out.

#10—When it's all said and done: Take a moment to reflect, take a moment to pat yourself on the back for your success. Thank the people have helped you along the way. They may not have read the book or took the exam with you, but they could have had a heavy impact on your success.



Mark Magallanes, Psychology major, shares his research with Campus President Carolyn Long at Research Day at the WV Capital.



Photos courtesy of Dr. Cynthia Hall

### **A Bright Future for SSS at Tech**

Last summer, the program received a five-year, \$1.7 million grant to continue operating at WVU Tech. Under the grant, SSS was able to hire a new student success advisor. Jeanette Vara started in December 2015 to help the program expand its reach and better serve its student population. “She’s been a major asset and in her time here has already contributed immensely to the growth of the program,” said Robertson.

The new grant was also designed to get students involved in the program at a much faster rate. SSS saw many of its current students working through the program as soon as school started. Because of the success of this year’s program, SSS hopes to gain access to increased funding in the 2016-2017 academic year. That increase in funding would establish a drop-in STEM tutoring service that would bring even more peer tutors to the program.

The increase in advisors and enhanced programming are just a few benefits program students can expect to see next year. New students will go through their own orientation program and will team up with a peer mentor from within the program. These mentors will attend workshops, on-campus programs, sporting events and cultural activities to help build a sense of community within the program. SSS is already planning cultural events for next year, too. With the University’s new campus opening in Beckley, Robertson said that the team is looking into events in that region as well.

### **Advocating for TRIO on a Grand Scale**

Robertson is enthusiastic about the enhanced team and new programming, but there’s more in store for TRIO at Tech in the upcoming academic year. Starting October 1, 2016, Robertson, who currently serves as president of West Virginia TRIO will have even more opportunities to advocate for TRIO. He was recently voted president-elect of the Mid-Eastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MEAEOPP).

The office runs on a three-year term cycle. Robertson will serve one year as president-elect, one year as president and a third year as immediate past-president. In this position, he will work with lawmakers and TRIO representatives to promote and advocate for TRIO programming. He will also serve on the national TRIO Council for Opportunity and Education board, where he’ll represent the entire mid-eastern region of TRIO programs in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Washington, D.C.

As a TRIO program alumnus himself, Robertson is eager to get to work in the new role. He sees it as an opportunity to be a voice for both rural students and TRIO alumni. “I know that the opportunities I have would not exist if it weren’t for those who came before me, if it weren’t for those advocating and fighting for our programs,” he said.

“This will allow me to share my own experience in the program. It will allow me to uncover information on issues that impact the first-generation, low-income and disabled students that make up a significant percentage of our population here. This can help us continue our growth and get the word out that WVU Tech is a place that operates as a family and is here to make sure that these students are taken care of.”

### **SSS Social Media Information**



wvutechsss



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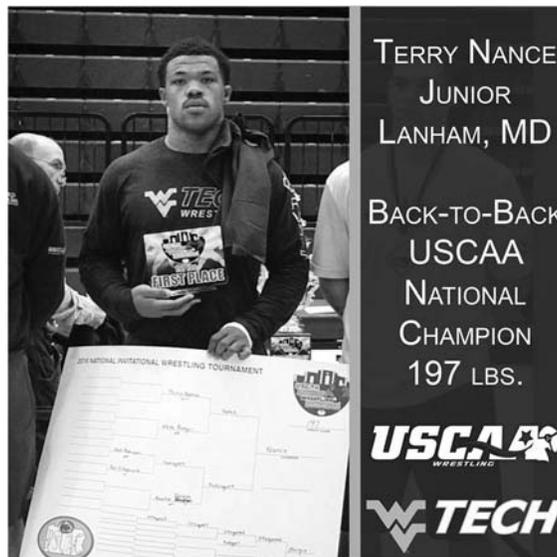
#wvutech #wvutechsss #TRIOWorks #GoldenBearReady

# SSS Scholars

The following students earned a 3.00 grade point average (GPA) or higher during the Spring 2016 semester in their respective coursework. We are very proud of their accomplishments!

Jordan Acree	Christopher Gabbert	Mark Magallanes	Dakota Smith
Lawrence Allphin	Victor Garcia*	Olivia Mantohbang	Morgan Smith
Angelica Arellano	Chloe Gillespie	Jaren Marino	Rodolfo Sosa
Angelica Atha	Rubhi Garcia	Jacob Marshall	Crystal Spurlock
Daniel Beverly	Hunter Gray	Charles Mayes	Samuel Stone
Megan Blythe	Daniel Grimm	Andrew McGrady	Scotty Stone
Jonathon Boarman	Gracyn Grubb	Taylor Miltenberger	Madison Stone
Kaylah Bovard	Allison Hall	Shelby Montgomery	Richard Sutphin
Jordan Bowen*	Sheng Han	Allison Morris	Lesli Taylor
Tori Bragg*	Jaymee Hannan	Taofik Mudasiru	Adam Teator*
Brianne Cantley	Kaylon Hancock	Nathaniel Nottingham	Peter Telesco
Joseph Caudill	Marissa Hare	Vicente Porcar	Suman Thapa
Morgan Church	Katelyn Horrocks	William Prather	Teresa Tincer
Kelley Coleman*	Channa Hoskins	Liz Pressman	Blasita Trevino
Roman Cruz	William Hughes	James Ramsey*	Genna Trippett
Deanna Cunningham	Geneva Hutchison	Breigh Renner	Salvador Valencia
Janet Cunningham	Zuberi Idy	Cary Robertson	James Waldeck
Preston Curry	Antonio Jenkins	Colton Rowe	Cody Walker
Ryan Errickson	Tavon Johnson	Rachel Rusch	Brianna Whaley*
Jackie Estes	Shella Kelley	Kimberly Rush	Tyesha White
Cathy Zornes-Estes	Josh Kinsel	Courtney Schoolcraft	Sarah Whitley
Daniel Falsafi	Dillon Kittle	Kyra Schoolcraft	Shannon Wiercioch
Joseph Ferguson	Melissa Landers	Aaliyah Sears	Rodney Wills
Terry Foster	Kylie Lang*	Sierra Seay	Josh Workman
Kelsey Frank	Gio Lins	Nikiyah Simpson	Astewaye Zedewede

\*Denotes 4.0GPA



# Leonard C. Nelson College of Engineering and Science

## 2016 TRIO SSS Graduates

### Computer Science

Richard Murdock

### Chemical Engineering

Breigh Renner

### Civil Engineering

Joseph Caudill

Sheng Han

Logan Harwell\*

James Ramsey

Suman Thapa

### Computer Engineering

Shella "Gabbi" Kelley

### Electrical Engineering

Joseph Ferguson

Adam Kiger

### Mechanical Engineering

Kaylah Bovard

Tavon Johnson

Joel Kouakou

### Engineering Technology/Civil Emphasis

Zachary Hornsby

### Biology

Janet Cunningham

Jolita Dural\*

Taylor Miltenberger

### Mathematics

Adam Kiger

### Information Systems

Larry Allphin

Dillon Kittle

## School of Nursing

### 2016 TRIO SSS Graduates

Allison Hall

Crystal Spurlock

# College of Business, Humanities and Social Sciences

## 2016 TRIO SSS Graduates

### History and Government

William Hughes

### Psychology

Megan Blythe

Ashley Boggs

Jacqueline Carroll

Alexandra Dunn\*

Laketra Nicholes

### Regents Bachelor of Arts

Jaren Marino

Rodney Wills

### Business Management

Rubhi Garcia Mercado

Sydney Schaeffer

### Criminal Justice

Ashley Burns

Cathy Estes-Zornes

James Waldeck

### Health Services Administration

Camie Pence

\*Summer 2016 Graduate

# STEM Awards Banquet

The following TRIO SSS participants were recognized for their achievements at the 19th Annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Banquet on April 18th on the WVU Tech Campus in Montgomery, WV.

## Biology

Janet Cunningham - Biology Service Award  
Sierra Seay - First Year Student Academic Excellence Award

## Civil Engineering

James Ramsey - Outstanding Civil Engineering Senior Award  
Dakota Smith - Outstanding Civil Engineering Freshman Award

## Computer Science and Information Systems

Adam Cantrell - Outstanding Information Systems Student

## Computer Engineering

Shella "Gabbi" Kelley- Outstanding Computer Engineering Senior Award

## Mathematics

Adam Teator - Outstanding Junior Award

## Mechanical Engineering

Courtney Shumate - Outstanding Contributions to the WVU Tech Student Partnership for the Advancement of Cosmic Exploration

## Outreach

Kaylah Bovard - 2015-16 Student Outreach and Service Award  
Richard Aaron Murdock - 2015-16 Student Outreach and Service Award



# WV TRIO Student Leadership Conference

By Jordan Acree, SSS Peer Mentor



Leadership is the quality or ability to lead a group or organization. Leadership is very important in all aspects of today's society. The world would not be successful without leadership, therefore we need excellent leadership in both school and the business world. I was able to strengthen and gain more of my leadership skills April 1-3, 2016 as I was given the opportunity to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> annual West Virginia TRIO Student Leadership Conference, "*Awaken the Force*", which was held in Flatwoods West Virginia.

At this conference I was one of the six SSS participants that had the privilege and honor to represent Tech. This conference was a weekend full of fun, learning, and making new friendships. At the conference we learned how to become better leaders and how we can impact not only our school but also our community and to become great leaders for the future. During this weekend full of fun, we broke off into small groups where we were given a challenge to complete. During this small group challenge we had to work together as a team to come up with a strategy that would let us successfully complete our challenge. Although at times there may have been disagreements and confusion for how to complete the challenge; everyone worked together, communicated, and let each person give their point of view of how to complete the challenge successfully.

A leader is all about leading a group or organization in the right direction and making sure everyone is heard and will become successful in whatever challenge they may face. This leadership conference was a great learning experience and lots of fun. If you ever get the chance to attend a leadership conference, I recommend you go. You will not regret it!!!



## SSS Spring Athletes

In addition to their coursework, the following SSS participants represent WVU Tech in athletic competition.

### Baseball

Carlos Diaz  
Doug Prather

### Softball

Megan Blythe  
Kayla Harbin  
Baylee Harless  
Lexi Huck  
Kayla Jones  
Rachel Rusch  
Genna Trippett  
Mackenzie Wilson

### Track and Field

Ashley Burns  
Brienne Cantley  
Christopher Gaillard  
Gjenine Galloway  
Kyle Goodson  
Atiyyah Herron  
Channa Hoskins  
Zuberi Idy  
Kylie Lang  
Allison Morris  
Cary Robertson  
Seirra Seay  
Blastia Trevino

# From the Desk of...

by Jeanette Vara, TRIO SSS Student Success Advisor



I've now been with TRIO SSS for a half-year and I've enjoyed working with our participants. In March, I experienced my first cultural trip with the program to see The Blue Man Group at the Clay Center and dinner at Mi Cocina de Amor in Charleston, WV!

The Mexican food at Mi Cocina de Amor was authentic and delicious. The decor in the restaurant transported you to Mexico! After dinner, we arrived at the Clay Center for the night's main attraction, The Blue Man Group. The show started with the audience reading ridiculous prompts from a screen. All of a sudden, the music played, the lights flashed and the performers appeared on stage. As the show went on, the Blue Man performers were very interactive with the audience. They took a volunteer and offered her a Twinkie dinner, Blue Man style!

Another volunteer from the audience was hooked up to and dangled from a rope. Then, they slammed him against a canvas to make an outline of his body. What a great souvenir! Throughout the show, they used drums with paint, pipes, and bouncy balls to make amazing music. At the end of the show, they had everyone stand up and started a dance party. Peer Mentor, Kimberly Rush said, "People were jumping and having the time of their life!"

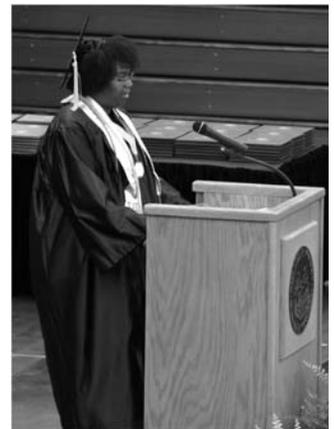
Thank you to the great students on this outing that made my first cultural trip memorable! I hope to see you at the next performance!

## SSS at Commencement



Jackie Carroll received the Presidential Leadership Award from the College of Business, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Janet Cunningham, Student Government Association Vice President, spoke as part of this year's event.



Ashley Boggs is all smiles after walking across the stage at Commencement.

The TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Program at WVU Tech is a federally grant (\$343,138) through the U.S. Department of Education.