

# Golden Bear Ready!

WVU Tech TRIO Student Support Services

Vol. 3 Issue 1 Summer 2017

## TRIO Gives Back

By Jeanette Vara, SSS Student Success Advisor

In addition to being thriving students in and out of the classroom, our TRIO participants are also community minded. This year in conjunction with WVU Tech's initiative to incorporate community service, TRIO SSS developed a community service piece into our curriculum. Our TRIO students came together to crochet plastic bag pillowcase mats for the local homeless shelter in Beckley, WV. For our first year, we were delighted to see that 19 TRIO students attended our community service night. For some, it was their first time crocheting!



We were pleased to offer community service. Service learning is a different way of teaching. Community service brings accomplishment, leadership skills, and a humbling experience. We feel strongly that students who donate their time better understand the needs of their community. The students were able to address a real-world problem all while strengthening their social skills, learning a new life skill (crocheting) and realizing the role

they play and the responsibility they have to help advance their community. We want to instill in our students to always reflect on the strengths that they have and how someone else could benefit from their strengths. A special thanks to Associate Dean of Students, Emily Sands for assisting with teaching students how to crochet! Be sure to check out our fall 2017 schedule of events for more community service opportunities!



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**We Are On  
The Move!**

We are now located in  
Benedum Center on  
the Beckley campus.

**TRIO**  
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

# SSS Graduates

The following students received their diplomas during the 2017 Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 6, 2017 in the Neal D. Baisi Athletic Center on the Tech Campus.

## Leonard C. Nelson College of Engineering and Sciences

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degrees

### Computer Science

Adam Arthur\*\*

### Chemical Engineering

Blake Burgess

### Civil Engineering

Carlos Diaz

Taofik Mudasiru

John Reges

Joshua Workman

### Electrical Engineering

Adam Teator

### Mechanical Engineering

John Hunter

Joel Kouakou

Robert Leibel

Jerod Taylor

### Engineering Technology/Civil Emphasis

David Russell

### Engineering Technology/Mechanical Emphasis

Randall Cain\*\*

### Biology

Amber Linville

### Mathematics

Adam Teator

### Information Systems

Zachary Ballard

## College of Business, Humanities and Social Sciences

### Psychology

Jordan Acree

Emily McCormick

Lesli Taylor

Shannon Wiercioch

### Criminal Justice

Tori Bragg\*\*

Blake Burgess\*\*\*

Atiyah Herron\*\*\*

Lexi Huck

Giovane Lins

Shannon Wiercioch

### History and Government

Scotty Stone\*\*

### Business Management

Hunter Moles

### Health Service Administration

Jacqueline Estes

Hunter Gray

Kaylon Hancock

Camie Pence

Brianna Whaley\*\*

## West Virginia University

### College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences

#### Athletic Coaching Education

Alexander Moore

Genna Trippett

\*\*Fall 2016 Graduates

\*\*\* Summer 2017 Graduates

## West Virginia University

### School of Nursing

Shelly Beard

Kelley Coleman

Shelby Montgomery

Elizabeth Pressman

Teresa Tincher

# TRIO SSS's Alternative Spring Break Trip

*by Snyder Coca Soto, TRIO SSS Participant*

The Graduate School Tour/ Cultural Trip to Washington, DC and WV TRIO Student Leadership Conference were excellent. First of all, I had the opportunity to make new friendships and solidify existing ones with fellow peers. The group of people was definitely unique which made the whole experience a lot more fun and diverse. I learned a lot during this trip where I had the opportunity to visit the African American Museum and learn about important historical figures and movements that pushed for racial equality. Exploring the NASA facilities at Goddard Space Center was an incredible experience, being able to see the James Webb Space Telescope up close was indescribable. Knowing that I got the opportunity to see a piece of equipment that will enable humanity to view deeper into the cosmos providing a better understanding of the universe's origin is mind-blowing.



Attending the WV TRIO Student Leadership Conference provided us the opportunity to meet other TRIO participants from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. It was a reflective experience as one became acquainted with the people present. Getting to know the stories of fellow students who find themselves at different stages of life served as inspiration. Seeing older and much more experienced students from different institutions with conditions that would complicate their success still achieving victory was incredible.



# Shahab Shamir Wins Big!

*Article provided by WVU Tech University Relations*

WVU Tech student and TRIO SSS participant Nima ShahabShahmir has big plans for a small business. The computer science major wants to use his degree in the technology field, where he sees a lot of potential for the state of West Virginia. But he's got an entrepreneurial streak, too, and he's making the most of it by launching a business that he hopes will change the way we think about eco-friendly consumer products.

His project is Future Fungi, and it aims to disrupt the plastic and styfoam industry by turning mycelium – the basic structure and roots of a common mushroom – into eco-friendly consumer items like plates, cups and blocks. The process works by forming the mycelium into various products that are baked, glazed and sold in bulk to environmentally conscious purchasers. The fungi-based product is

waterproof, lightweight and boasts an indefinite shelf life. It's also a biodegradable alternative to long-lasting plastics, which Nima says can sit for 400 years before being degraded. By comparison, a Future Fungi cup will return to nature in as little as two weeks. Mycelium is also rich in nutrients, which gives a Future Fungi product a usable life well after it's discarded.

"It will have great positive impacts for the state of West Virginia," said Nima. "We are planning on using the agricultural waste materials from the farms within the state and also the process of natural decomposition of these materials can bring lots of nutrients to the soil, which will ultimately help out the agricultural businesses." Nima was born and raised in Iran, and his family moved to the Lewisburg area seven years ago. He said that his time in the region has given him an enhanced appreciation for nature. "I grew up and lived 16 years in the large city of Tehran with lots of noise and air pollution, so it was definitely great to move to a place that is closer to nature and also fresh air," he said. That appreciation was part of his drive to create Future Fungi.

"I believe that for the longest time we have only been using the planet's resources. Unfortunately these natural resources have mainly been replaced with industrial waste materials. By switching to mycelium products, we will not only create a better ecosystem now, but also for our future generations as well," he said. In recent weeks, Nima has secured the support of multiple organizations that will help him bring Future Fungi to fruition. Nima was the first student to work with WV Hive and the LaunchLab on WVU Tech's Beckley campus. The lab offers entrepreneurial resources, including business coaching, equipment and incubator space. Working with the lab, Nima won the New River Gorge Regional Development Authority's Common Grounds competition sponsored by TechConnect. The \$500 competition award allowed him to conduct additional research and experimentation.

After his research showed the vast potential for the product, he participated in the Robert C. Byrd Institute's Vanguard Agricultural Competition, where he received an award of \$10,000 and a year of business assistance. That assistance will help Nima put together everything from patent applications to Future Fungi logos. Nima said that it's still too early to know the exact timeline of Future Fungi's rollout because he's still experimenting with the mycelium-based products, but that he hopes to share more news in the coming months. "There are lots of applications for utilizing these eco-friendly products and by assistance of Robert C. Byrd Institute I will be able to bring these innovative ideas into reality. It is amazing to cooperate with the knowledgeable team of the institute to develop this business. I would like to thank WVU Tech, WV Hive and RCBI for giving me this great opportunity and I feel so honored and grateful for it," he said



# TRIO SSS Scholars

The following students earned a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) or higher during the Spring 2017 semester in their respective coursework. We are very proud of their accomplishments!

Jordan Acree	Katie Ervin	Cole Lambert*	Dakota Smith
Misa Amane*	Jacqueline Estes*	Kylie Lang	Alexander Sparks
Zachary Armstead	Zechariah Faw	Robert Liebel*	Samuel Stone
Lucas Arrey*	Terry Foster	Giovane Lins*	Madison Stone
Luke Ballengee	Kelsey Frank	Amber Linville	Richard Sutphin
Tristan Bean	Christopher Gabbert	Mark Magallanes	Jerod Taylor
Daniel Beverly	Daniel Grimm	Charles Mayes	Lesli Taylor
Makenna Blakenship	Gracyn Grubb	Brittan McClain*	Adam Teator*
Jonathan Boarman	Kaylon Hancock	Emily McCormick*	Teresa Tincher
Jordan Bowen*	Jaymee Hannan	Hunter Moles	Cody Walker
Chad Bowling	Lindsey Harless	Shelby Montgomery	Michael Wells
Anthony Brumfield	Hannah Hawley	Alexander Moore	Tyesha White
Blake Burgess	Henry Massey	Allison Morris	Sarah Whitley
Caitlyn Burks	Atiyyah Herron	Timothy Myers	Shannon Wiercioch
Adam Cantrell*	Justice Horn	Jessica Nettleton	Jonathan Williams
Faith Carr	Katelyn Horrocks	Gabrielle Pike	Paul Woods
Morgan Church	John Hunter	Liz Pressman	Joshua Workman
Kelley Coleman*	Zuberi Idy*	James Pritt	
Evan Cook	Kayla Jones	Fernando Rivero	
Deanna Cunningham*	Herbert Jordan	David Russell	* Denotes 4.0 GPA
Brandon Dale*	Rebecca Keaton	Courtney Schoolcraft	
Brianna Dixon	Ra'Shaud Kincaid	Brandon Seabolt	
Joshua Dolin	Hannah Kincaid	Sierra Seay*	
Keymonisha Dudley	Alex Kotheimer	Nima Shahab Shahmir	

## Renter's Insurance - Better Safe Than Sorry

by Scott Robertson, TRIO SSS Director

Whether you are living on campus this fall or in an apartment, the SSS office would recommend that you seek out renter's insurance for your belongings. If your parents or guardians have a home insurance policy, have them check into renter's insurance for you. In many cases, the additional insurance will run anywhere from \$10-\$20 but the added piece of mind will be worth it in case something were to happen to your belongings.

I lost a majority of my belongings in an apartment fire in 2007 and did not have renter's insurance. Thankfully I was able to bounce back with support from family and friends. However, I would recommend that you look into renter's insurance for your piece of mind. When I moved into my new apartment in December 2016, the first thing I did was to make sure that I had renter's insurance.



# Robertson to Take Helm at multi-state TRIO Association

*Article provided by WVU Tech University Relations*

Scott Robertson, Assistant Dean of Students for TRIO Programs and SSS Director at WVU Tech, was sworn in as president of the Mid-Eastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel during the organization's 2017 conference in Charleston, West Virginia.

MEAEOPP is a regional association for professionals who administer or work in TRIO programs in Delaware, Washington, D.C., Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. The organization provides professional development opportunities for staff as well as the tools to advocate for TRIO participants – middle school through college-aged students who qualify as low-income, are first-generation or have disabilities.

As president, Robertson will serve as the region's representative on the Council for Opportunity in Education Board. He will help direct and drive the mission of MEAEOPP, speak at events throughout the region and help to find, create and develop opportunities for the TRIO target population. Robertson, a former student of multiple TRIO programs, said he's excited to help pay it forward.

"As a TRIO Upward Bound and TRIO Student Support Services alumnus, serving in this role allows me to speak up for those students who we serve and to share my own story. Without those summers in the UB program or the assistance in college, I would not be where I am today," he said. Robertson's term begins on October 1 and will run until the end of September, 2018. During his tenure, he hopes to help MEAEOPP continue its legacy of being a thought leader in educational access. He also plans to push more stories of program beneficiaries into the spotlight in an effort to highlight the value of TRIO programming.

"Working closely with the MEAEOPP Board and the region, I hope that we are able to collect alumni stories and share them with the general public to show the impact our programs have across the country," he said. As overseer of WVU Tech's TRIO programs, he said he's also excited to see what being on the forefront of the national TRIO conversation can do for his own programs.

"Tech has a long commitment of supporting TRIO-eligible population since the programs have been campus," he said. "Serving as the conduit between the programs and the regional association allows the institution to be part of the discussion for first-generation, low-income and/or students with disabilities."



## TRIO SSS Awards over \$26,000 in Scholarships

Each year, the TRIO SSS Program and WVU Tech awards over \$26,000 in scholarship funds to program participants. The awardees for the 2016-17 academic year are listed below:

Benjamin Adu-Gyamfi  
Isaiah Briggs  
Deanna Cunningham  
Danielle Friend  
Victor Garcia  
Marissa Hare  
Kathrene Hayes

Justice Horn  
Channa Hoskins  
Jepte Jeanpaul  
Olivia Mantohbang  
Dwayne Marcum  
Jessica Nettleton  
Isaiah Nisbet

Nathaniel Nottingham  
Nima Shahab Shamir  
Holly Skaggs  
Raney Waruszewski  
Tyesha White  
Sarah Whitely  
Paul Woods

# TRIO SSS Student Athletes

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

## **Baseball**

Carlos Diaz  
Alex Kotheimer  
William Prather  
Brian Schack

## **Men's Basketball**

Lucas Arrey  
Ra'Shaud Kincaid  
Hunter Moles

## **Women's Basketball**

Emily Brown  
Keymonisha Dudley

## **Men's Cross Country**

Robert Jones

## **Women's Cross Country**

Katie Ervin  
Atiyah Herron  
Kylie Lang  
Seirra Seay

## **Softball**

Kayla Harbin  
Lexi Huck  
Kayla Jones  
Genna Trippett

## **Men's Soccer**

Mark Magallanes  
Hunter Moles

## **Women's Soccer**

Makenna Blankenship  
Olivia Mantohbang

## **Swimming**

Jacob Marshall

## **Men's Track and Field:**

Isaiah Briggs  
Marvell Conner  
Zuberi Idy  
Robert Jones  
Kendall Kirksey II  
Peter Telesco

## **Women's Track and Field:**

Brianne Cantley  
Katie Ervin  
Atiyah Herron  
Channa Hoskins  
Kylie Lang  
Courtney Leadingham  
Tenaya Meade  
Seirra Seay  
Blasita Trevino

## **Volleyball**

Courtney Leadingham

## **Wrestling**

Tristan Bean  
Jonathan Boarman  
Justice Horn  
Giovane Lins  
Terry Nance  
Robert Pritt  
Colton Rowe  
Kenique Stewart  
Jason Wainwright

To stay up to date on what is going on in the TRIO SSS office, make sure you follow us online!



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# 7 Day Weekends and Adventure Awaits You...Happy Retirement!



Congratulations Kitty and Rita on your retirement! We are saying goodbye to Kitty Palausky after 22 years of service and Rita Huddleston after 33<sup>1/2</sup> years of service. We want to thank you for your contributions to the TRIO program at WVU Tech. We hope you enjoy your retirement!



## TRIO Tidbits

- Dakota Smith and Josh Workman, Civil Engineering majors, were awarded a scholarship from the Contractors Association of West Virginia Scholarship Foundation.
- Victor Garcia received the WV TRIO Association scholarship; the first student to do so in over a decade.
- Kimberly Rush is interning with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Quantico, VA this summer.
- Snayder Coca Soto, Kylie Lang, Madison Stone and Tyesha White were selected as Summer Orientation Leaders for New Student Registration Events.
- The following students were selected as Athletes of the Week during this academic year:

Colton Rowe - Wrestling (11/21/16)	Hunter Moles - Soccer (12/1/16)
Terry Nance - Wrestling (2/16/17)	Atiyah Herron - Track (2/16/17)
Lucas Arrey - Basketball (3/3/17)	Genna Trippett - Softball (3/11/17)
Mackenzie Wilson - Softball (4/16/17)	Sasha Fleurinor - Track (4/20/117)
- Keymonisha Dudley and Terry Nance were selected as Homecoming Queen and Homecoming King.



Program participants were able to attend the Mid-Eastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MEAEOPP) 41st Annual Conference TRIO Alumni Achievers Banquet. Students selected to attend were Cody Walker, Tyesha White, Peter Telesco, Snayder Coca Soto, Nima Shahab Shamir, Dakota Smith, Madison Stone, Mark Magallanes, Hunter Moles, Jordan Acree and Terry Nance.