

# TRIO Student Support Services

2020  
Volume 6, Issue 1

## Spring 2020 Welcome Back Event

Before the spring semester was disrupted by COVID-19, SSS held a welcome back event for our participants. The purpose of the event was to continue the connections first year students had made in their learning communities in the fall while also providing an opportunity for continued academic, financial, career, and personal development for all participants. The participants at the event were split into groups and then rotated through four stations.

- Tish Cooper, Learning Specialist in the PASS Office, did a study skills activity with the students.
- Tam Lowry, Director of Student Support Services, led a financial literacy activity with the students.
- Holly Clark, Student Development Specialist in the SSS Office, did a career lesson with participants.
- A small panel of students discussed campus engagement and how to get involved. Panelists included Tyriek Charles, Abreeya Darda, Sharon Hernandez, and Shawn Wall.



Panelists Sharon Hernandez, Tyriek Charles, and Shawn Wall.

Participants rotated through the four centers with a set amount of time at each station.



Participants at two of the centers during the event.

## SSS Program Funded for Next Five Years

Student Support Services (SSS) is a federally funded TRIO program designed to help students access and graduate from college. SSS helps students who are first generation, students who meet the U.S. Department of Education's low income guidelines, and students with disabilities. The SSS program at FSU has been funded continuously since 1973. The goals of the program are to help students persist from one academic year to the next, maintain satisfactory academic progress, and graduate in a timely manner. The services provided help students develop the academic, financial, career, and personal skills they need to succeed at the university and beyond.

The Student Support Services program recently applied for and received a federal grant to continue serving 275 eligible FSU students annually for the next five years. The grant will provide \$396,320 annually, for a total of over \$1.9 million.

The renewal process was competitive with 1,131 out of over 1,700 applicants nationwide receiving funding for the 2020-2024 grant cycle. Extra points were earned by the FSU program for narratives that addressed improvement of students' financial literacy skills as well as targeted career counseling services.

## SSS Participants Attended Graduate School Fair



Twenty SSS participants attended the Idealist Grad Fair in Washington, D.C. in September 2019.



## WV TRIO Leadership Retreat



Frostburg State University was once again represented at the WV TRIO Student Leadership Conference in March 2020. Shawn Jones, SSS Student Development Specialist, took 16 SSS participants. The annual conference is held in Flatwoods, WV, and includes TRIO participants from around the region. Participants listened to speakers and participated in activities that helped them strengthen their leadership skills.

### 2020 SSS Student Executive Board

- President:  
**Derek Staines**
- Vice President:  
**Syully Koroh**
- Secretary & Public Relations:  
**Abigail Hunker**
- Student Advisor:  
**Nadia Khan**
- Member at Large:  
**Emilee Fierro**



## Shawn Wall to Receive SSS Scholarship



The TRIO Student Support Services scholarship is awarded annually to a student with financial need who is active in SSS and on campus.

**Shawn Wall** was selected to receive the 2020-2021 TRIO SSS scholarship. Shawn is a senior majoring in Law and

Society and Political Science. He has minors in International Studies and Sociology. Shawn has been on the Dean's List every semester while also being active in the community and on campus. He is also employed year-round to help support himself through school.

Prior to coming to FSU, Shawn earned the recognition of Eagle Scout. He continued his commitment to serving others when he got to college by joining the AmeriCorps ECHOSTARS program. As part of ECHOSTARS, and more recently as a RisingSTAR for the program, Shawn has completed over 800 hours of community service.

Shawn is part of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the National Society of Leadership and Success, and Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society. He is also active in the Phi Mu Delta Fraternity.

Upon graduation in May 2021, Shawn plans to attend law school.

## Trip to Ford's Theater

One of the purposes of Student Support Services is to expose students to cultural and educational opportunities that they may not have otherwise been able to experience. Some of these experiences are on campus, such as attending plays and etiquette dinners, while others are trips to off campus locations. In November, Shawn Jones and Don Maxwell took a group of SSS participants to Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. The students toured the museum and watched the "Christmas Carol" production.



Lauren Lynch and Cheyenne Love pose in the museum before the show.



## 2019-2020 Award Winners



KEONTE SMITH

First Year Student



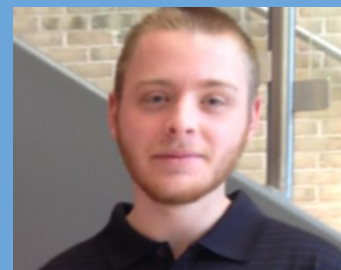
ABREEYA DARDA

Contribution to  
College Life



BRANDI BINKLEY

Outstanding  
Academic  
Achievement



BRANDON BINKLEY

Outstanding  
Academic  
Achievement



KAYLA JOHNSON

Dedication &  
Persistence



MATTHEW CLOUGH

Student of the Year



DEANDRE RICHMOND

Judith Wolfe  
Excellence

These students received awards at our Spring 2020 virtual graduate reception. We also honored 40 spring and summer graduates.

## Student Success Panel



In September 2019, first year SSS participants attended a Student Success Panel where panelists discussed how their experiences as first-generation, low-income college students influenced their success in college. They shared how they overcame personal and academic challenges prior to and throughout college. Panelists were **DeAndre Richmond, Sharon Hernandez, Derek Staines, Hannah Ripperger, and Abreeya Darda.**