

Frostburg State TRIO SSS Newsletter



TRIO SSS Celebrates 50 Years of Serving FSU Students



Big birthdays, new faces, and new achievements are all highlights in this year's SSS Newsletter. Please read on to learn more about the program, the staff, and our students!

TRIO SSS: 50 Years of Growth

The 2023-2024 academic year is a historic milestone for Student Support Services here at Frostburg State, marking 50 years of the program's existence. On August 24th, 1973, the United States Department of Education awarded Frostburg State University with the original grant that created Student Support Services. Over the half-century that SSS has been serving Frostburg students, the program has seen new faces, persisted through many challenges, and embraced growth. Yet, the purpose that drives us remains constant: giving first-generation and low-income students the support they need to be successful in college and beyond.

The 2022-2023 school year was a year of change for SSS. Former Director Tam Lowry moved to a new position within the University. Holly Clark, formerly a Student Development Specialist, stepped into her new role as Director of the program. We also added two new members to the SSS team. Chance Burchick joined SSS just before the start of the 2022 Fall semester as a Student Development Specialist. Our longtime Math Specialist, Don Maxwell, retired from the University, with Ryley McBride filling the role at the start of the 2023 Spring semester. As many programs across all colleges and universities have become aware of over the last academic year, getting students engaged has been an increasingly difficult challenge. This too has impacted our program and we are continuously working to increase student engagement. This year, we ramped up our efforts to grow the participation of new participants in our program as well as increase engagement in our current participants. These efforts included increased outreach efforts across campus, reaching out to faculty and staff to raise awareness about our program, and growing our social media presence. While we plan to continue our growth and engagement efforts in the 2023-2024 school year, we are happy to report that we saw steady increases in participation and engagement in SSS Services and activities throughout the 2022-2023 year.



2022-2023 Award Winners

James Dean
Director's Award

Taira MCants
Student of the Year

Jason Knott
Contribution to College Life

Desi Sies
Dedication & Persistence

Ashley Cutter (Not Pictured)
Outstanding Academic Achievement

Silas Pilcher (Not Pictured)
First Year Student Award



SSS Annual Scholarship Winners

SSS is proud to announce that two outstanding students have been awarded the scholarship this year - Whitney Winkler and Taina Cajigas. These students have shown exceptional performance and dedication to their studies and we are thrilled to support them in their academic pursuits. We are excited to see what the future holds for them and wish them all the best in their academic careers. Congratulations to Whitney and Taina on this well-deserved achievement!



Whitney Winkler is in her third year at FSU. She is a social science major with concentrations in history and psychology. Whitney maintains a 4.0 GPA while managing to be very involved on campus. She plans to get her MAT and pursue a career in secondary education.



Taina Cajigas is in her fourth year at FSU. She is a Health Science major with a psychology minor. Tai plans to pursue graduate school and a career as a Physician's Assistant specializing in pediatrics. Tai has multiple leadership and mentor roles in the SSS program and on campus, and is also very involved in her community at home.

If you feel compelled to assist in continuing to provide this great scholarship opportunity for our students, donations to the SSS Scholarship fund can be made at <https://give.frostburg.edu/make-a-gift/?a=6829574>

SSS Activities

- Trip to Laurel Caverns
- Workshops on scholarships, academic skills, and financial responsibility
- Workshops on stress and self-care
- First-Gen Day Celebration
- National TRIO Day Celebration
- SSS Student Success Panel
- Welcome back pizza party



Student Support Services is a program federally funded by the TRIO grant seeking to assist first-generation, low-income college students with developing the academic and financial skills necessary to be successful in and after college.

Contact us:

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