

TRIO Student Support Services Annual Newsletter

2023-2024



The 2023-2024 school year at FSU's TRIO SSS program was a year filled with dedication, challenges, and student success. We continued to engage with our current students and bring in new faces, all while providing our students with opportunities to grow academically, personally, and professionally. From museums and plays, to awards and outdoor adventures, it was a big year for our program. Please read on to learn more about the SSS program and to see what our awesome students have been up to this year!



Celebrating National TRIO Day



2023-2024 Academic Year Award Winners:

First Year Student - Rachel Daughton

Contribution to College Life - Mya Ellis

Dedication & Persistence - Shawna Layton & Molly Dawson

Outstanding Academic Achievement - Edem Hotor

Student of the Year - Kordell Martin

Director's Award - Alivia Melius

Our 2023-2024 Graduates

In May, 41 SSS students earned their degrees and are currently at the beginning of their professional journeys and post-college lives. Additionally, we have 5 students expected to graduate in the summer of 2024. This graduating cohort faced many challenges along the way. They finished their high school careers at the beginning of the pandemic, began college in the midst of it, and completed their college journey through the transition back to normalcy. The perseverance and adaptability necessary to thrive in this changing environment cannot be discounted, and our students certainly displayed that. Our students succeeded academically, posting an average cumulative GPA of 3.24 among the graduated students. Our newest group of SSS alum are out in the world making a difference in careers and graduate studies in a variety of fields including government, education, engineering, healthcare, project management, and computer science. We are grateful to have played a role in the growth of these students, and are very excited and proud to see where this next chapter of life takes them.

2024 Graduate Celebration



At the end of each academic year, SSS honors program graduates at an annual reception. Graduating students and award winners are recognized for their hard work and accomplishments during their time at FSU.

SSS Program Participant Selected as Commencement Speaker



Alivia Melius '24, was selected as the speaker for the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social and Behavioral Sciences for the spring 2024 commencement ceremony. During her time at FSU, Alivia was very involved with SSS, the FSU campus, and her community. Alivia plans to continue her education at the University of Pittsburgh as she pursues a graduate degree in education.

2023-2024 Trip Highlights



SSS participants had a number of opportunities for experiences outside of campus. SSS participants explored the beauty and history of our local region on rail bikes, learned about the assassination's of President Lincoln and enjoyed the classic 'A Christmas Carol' at Ford's Theatre, and developed their team and communication skills while enjoying beautiful spring weather at the Deer Valley YMCA camp. Our students benefit greatly from being able to go on these trips and are enriched by the cultural experiences and activities and developing friendships with other program participants that will last a lifetime.



TRIO Leadership Conference

TRIO-SSS participants had the opportunity to attend the WV TRIO Student Leadership Conference March 1-3, 2024, held in Sutton, WV. Sessions for college participants focused on career development. FSU's SSS program had 15 students attend. Caleb Heller was our recipient of the Dr. Anne Crum Leadership award. Our students enjoyed the weekend and bonded with others they would normally not interact with on campus.

"I really enjoyed my experience at the WV Leadership Conference. I loved the sessions and workshops that were coordinated for resumes and preparing us for our career search. I am thankful that SSS gave me this opportunity."

- Mya Ellis, 2024 Leadership Conference Attendee



SSS Participants Pursue McNair Scholar Opportunities

SSS participants Cayleah Anders (*left*) and Emily Guardado-Toledo (*right*) presented their research with the McNair Scholars program at the University of Maryland College Park. McNair is a competitive TRIO program for achieving students who aim to pursue doctoral degrees in their respective fields. The program requires additional research work during the school year and extensive summer research projects. We are very proud of Cayleah and Emily and are excited to see their continued success in both TRIO programs!



TRIO SSS Scholarship Award Winner

Firas Abdelgadir, a senior SSS participant, was the recipient of the 2024 TRIO SSS scholarship. Firas is a Secure Computing and Information Assurance major and is a member of the men's soccer team. Firas is very involved in the campus and surrounding community, volunteering with local organizations and demonstrating leadership capabilities with his involvement in campus organizations. Firas demonstrates all of the qualities of a great student and we are proud to have been able to provide him with this award.



The TRIO SSS scholarship is given annually to a deserving student who is academically achieving, involved in their campus and community, and demonstrates need for the award. This award can be vital to providing students with financial assistance to ensure they complete their degree program. If you feel compelled to contribute to this fund, please use the link below to donate:

[TRIO SSS Scholarship Fund](#)

TRIO Student Support Services

About the Program

TRIO Student Support Services is a federally funded program that is a one-stop-shop for students who are first-generation and/or come from low-income backgrounds. The SSS program offers a variety of services to help students grow academically, personally, and professionally. Program services include academic skill development, financial literacy, academic advising, tutoring, career development and exploration, and general advocacy and support. We support students from the time they join our program (as early as their first semester at FSU) until they graduate.

If you know an FSU student that is first-generation or low-income, please refer them to our program! Additionally, if you or your department would like to learn more about the SSS program, please reach out. We would love to connect!



TRIO Student Support Services

Bridgette Karalewitz - Administrative Assistant (Bottom Left)

Holly Clark - Program Director (Bottom Right)

Chance Burchick - Student Development Specialist (Top Left)

Shawn Jones - Student Development Specialist (Top Middle)

Rylee McBride - Math Specialist (Top Right)

Pullen Hall 133
Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30
301.687.4481
bkaralewitz@frostburg.edu

