

TRIO

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

TRIO Goes to Washington, D.C.



This past July, Purdue University Fort Wayne TRIO SSS students boarded a bus for a four-day cultural trip to Washington D.C. On the first day, the group visited the FDR & MLK Memorials, White House, World War II Memorial, and Washington Monument. The students also visited the National Archives, where they were able to view the Declaration of Independence. “The sightseeing spots were great. It was amazing,” said Riley Erck. The first day ended with an impactful visit to the Holocaust Museum.

Day two was just as fast-paced. The group toured Arlington Cemetery, Union Station, the Capital Building, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, Vietnam War, Korean War, and Lincoln Memorials. At Arlington National Cemetery, students observed the *Changing of the Guard* at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and a 21-gun salute at the conclusion of a veteran’s funeral. Students were very moved by both experiences.

The evening was busy too, as the group enjoyed an evening tour of the Jefferson Memorial and a spectacular view from the roof of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Many students shared this was their favorite view of

Washington, D.C. with the city lights, Potomac River, and memorials lit up for evening viewing.

On Wednesday, students toured Mount Vernon, the historic home of George and Martha Washington. At Mount Vernon, three TRIO students participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the tomb of George and Martha Washington. Students then spent the rest of the day at the Smithsonian Museums, touring in small groups. It was a whirlwind of activity and more walking than students had anticipated; however, if you ask any of them - it was a trip of a lifetime and an amazing experience! The vast majority of student attendees had never been to Washington D.C. before.



TRIO Alumni Steps Into Virtual Reality



Waylon Fisher may be new to the business world, but he's already an expert on virtual reality in Fort Wayne. Waylon always knew he wanted to own his own business, but he had no idea what kind of

business he'd like to start. But like any good entrepreneur, Waylon and his business partner, Brandon Barker, did their research on the local market and learned that there was a desire in the community for a virtual reality arcade. Even better yet, once Waylon played some of the virtual reality games, he said he was hooked. He very quickly realized there was a lot more to gaming than he had originally thought—including a huge social component and even a family component—since a lot of those playing were families doing the activity together. Waylon and Brandon then created a business plan and sought out potential funders for their business ven-



ture. They ended up presenting to multiple funders before they found someone willing to invest in their idea and business. "This was the hardest part of starting a business," said Waylon, "being first-generation and lacking networks for things like that was our biggest chal-



lenge." Finally, after months of planning, Spectrum Virtual Reality Arcade opened on the southwest side of Fort Wayne in December of 2017 and has been going strong ever since. Spectrum offers patrons the chance to experience over 80+ video games in virtual reality and really feel like they're a part of the game. Spectrum also hosts tournaments and league nights and had a demonstration booth at last year's PopCon.

Waylon is a TRIO alumnus and a 2017 graduate of IPFW. He holds his Bachelor's Degree in Actuarial Science. When starting a business, Waylon says his education came in handy helping with the business, finance, and math aspects of starting a business. If you'd like to learn more about starting a business or virtual reality gaming, TRIO will be hosting Waylon for a workshop on entrepreneurship and virtual reality. Come find out more about both on Wednesday, February 20 from 12-1pm.



Find out more:

Entrepreneurship & Virtual Reality Workshop:

Guest Speaker: Waylon Fisher

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

12-1pm-Kettler G30

New Academic Coordinator for TRIO



Ever since I can remember, it was always instilled in me to do well in school. My parents and teachers were proud of me when I worked hard and succeeded academically. I was proud of myself when my parents and teachers were proud of me! Education made me feel accomplished and fulfilled.

My parents did not attend college. They chose to enter the workforce and start a family. They did not have any college experience, but they always encouraged me to attend college. They used to tell me that although experience is important, education is invaluable. They often regretted not getting a degree, and they felt like they were somewhat limited in their careers due to not having a college education.

I grew up in Columbus, Ohio, and completed my first year of college at a small school in northern Ohio. After my first year, I decided to transfer to a small college in the middle-of-nowhere North Carolina. Crazy, huh? Due to some unforeseen circumstances, my immediate family relocated to North Carolina, and I followed. Moving out of state and transferring to a different college was a little crazy and pretty difficult, but it taught me a lot. I learned to surround myself with positive and supportive people and to focus on the finish line, not the starting line or the obstacles in the road to my success.

I completed my BS in Elementary Education at Campbell University. I graduated in 2011 and immediately got a teaching job. I worked as a kindergarten teacher and met my husband that year. The following year, I moved to Indiana with him, and have been teaching elementary school for the past six years. During that time, I became very interested in higher education and student advising. I completed my Master of Education online through Liberty University in 2016.

I am beyond excited to join TRIO as the new academic coordinator and to get the opportunity to work with TRIO students! I live in Fort Wayne with my husband, Adam, our two-year-old daughter, Eisley, and our two dogs, Lily and Belle. I feel very privileged to be here at Purdue Fort Wayne and in the TRIO office. I can't wait to get to know everyone!

TRIO Alumni Spotlight: Jada Gordon



Name: Jada Gordon

Graduation Year: 2016

Degree: Bachelor's Degree in Public Affairs w/Criminal Justice Major

Current Employer: Allen County Adult Probation Department

Job Title: Adult Probation Officer

Job Responsibilities: I am responsible for supervising the low-risk offenders and making sure they're abiding by the 7 standard rules of probation and any special conditions that were ordered by the Judge.

Volunteer/Community Activities: I also work as a security officer at high school varsity basketball and football games.

Advice to Current TRIO Students: Be sure to participate in an internship program related to your major. It really does impress employers when reading over your resume. Also, when applying for jobs, don't get discouraged if you're denied a position. I was denied three positions at different agencies before I was hired by my current employer. Always be patient—the perfect job will present itself to you.

TRIO Student, Michael Salazar, Goes to Spain



As a Mexican-American, I have grown up listening to the Mexican history explained to me by my mother, who is Mexican. Coming from a low-income family, I thought that I would have to join the workforce straight out of high school and work a low paying job that I would not like. My mom did her best trying to raise both my sister and me by herself and did an amazing job. She wanted to give us both a life that she could never have; she wanted us to get through school, go to college, and get a career that we wanted. I never actually thought that I would get the privilege of going to college. Growing up was a struggle for all three of us; Mom worked hard to try to put food on the table and we lived paycheck-to-paycheck every week. I would see her cry some days because of all the bills and payments she had and no one to help her. After entering high school, I knew that I wanted to make her proud and somehow help to make things easier for her.

In high school, I focused on my classes and took everything with more seriousness than my peers. I was made fun of sometimes because I didn't go out with friends, or because I wouldn't do the things that other students did—things like go to parties, drink, or even smoke. Other students would laugh at me because I did not have nice clothes or expensive shoes. I never let those comments and jokes get to me; instead, I chose to ignore those kids. My hard work paid off when I received academic scholarships and grants that helped me pay for college tuition and expenses.

Studying abroad is something that I never thought I would have the privilege of doing. When I heard of a fellow student who went to Spain through TRIO and the Keith Sherin Global Leaders Program, I decided it might actually be possible to make my dream of experiencing Spanish culture first-hand, come true. I applied and was chosen for the program! With the help of my TRIO director and advisors, I was also awarded an Indiana TRIO Study Abroad Scholarship and the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship. With these two scholarships, I was well on my way to Spain!

In the summer of 2018, I attended Salamanca University in Spain to study both Spanish language and culture. I was able to walk the city and experience the culture in a unique and personal manner that connected the stories from my childhood to modern-day Spain. I

enjoyed staying with a local family and took a business class in Spanish to fortify my speaking skills. At the end of the spring 2019 semester, I will realize a second dream, when I walk across the stage as a graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and a Spanish minor. I will have also earned enough credits to take the CPA exam. TRIO has facilitated the opportunity to add to my education through study abroad, and I look forward to using what I have learned to give back to my community.

Michael was chosen as one of 20 students nation-wide for the highly competitive Keith Sherin Global Leaders program sponsored by the Council for Opportunity in Education. This program is designed specifically for first-generation TRIO students and is structured to offer the guidance and support underrepresented students studying abroad need. If you're interested in an upcoming study abroad trip, please talk to your TRIO advisor early. Planning for study abroad takes almost a year, but it is well worth it in the long run.



TRIO Wins at Chancellor's Chili Fest



This year TRIO Red Chili was the big winner. TRIO's entry was voted number one by chili tasters from all over campus. This second annual event drew almost 1,000 students, faculty, and staff. Spirits were high and some mouths were burning at this year's Chili Fest. Director Shubitha Kever and TRIO Student, Miranda Hall, accepted the traveling department trophy from Chancellor Elsenbaumer at the conclusion of the event. Special thanks to Jeremy Workman for the winning recipe.



TRIO Student Leadership Conference



The theme for the 2018 Student Leadership Conference, presented by Indiana TRIO, was *Defining Your Purpose, Striving for Excellence*, and that's exactly what a group of TRIO students did on a weekend this past October. Historically, this conference has targeted high school TRIO students; however, this year, it was expanded to include college level TRIO students. TRIO SSS at Ivy Tech Community College

Northeast and Purdue University Fort Wayne joined the TRIO Upward Bound program from Purdue Fort Wayne on the bus trip to West Lafayette. Throughout the one-day conference, 200+ TRIO students from all over Indiana were challenged to achieve greater levels of personal and professional performance by increasing self-confidence and transforming the *impossible* into *I'M POSSIBLE*. Dion Campbell, community leader and Detective with the Michigan City Police Department, challenged students to break free from their past and any labels that could limit their potential or opportunities. The sessions were powerful and students were moved by many of the motivational speakers.

Breakout sessions covered information on study abroad, goal-setting, and other aspects of personal and academic success. Students were very grateful for the opportunity and were excited to work on the development of their own personal leadership skills. TRIO SSS attendees included: Cherry Aung, Bailey Berndt, Jonathan Brito, Lorenzo Catalan, Jo'Male Collier, Nicholas Miller, Osvaldo Montiel Fuentes, Alyssa Moore, Justin Walker, and Bryant Williams.



Other TRIO Events



Every year, TRIO SSS hosts a holiday celebration for students in early December. Students gather to participate in games, meet new people, and enjoy a festive holiday meal that includes turkey and pie! This year's gathering was the largest so far and was full of smiles and laughs. Along with lunch, TRIO students enjoyed ornament decorating, games, and photo-ops. The entire group competed in a holiday rendition of *Pictionary* and *What's On Your Cell Phone?* Events like this help build connections and promote a welcoming and supportive environment for all students which is a primary focus in TRIO.

This past November, TRIO celebrated First Generation Day on November 8 by hosting students from TRIO SSS at Ivy Tech Northeast. To raise awareness for first-generation students on both campuses, the student groups both started walking from their respective campuses and met in the middle at Walb Student Union for cocoa and to mingle. TRIO students who finish a 2-year degree at Ivy Tech are encouraged to transfer to Purdue Fort Wayne to complete their 4-year degrees. Having SSS programs on both campuses makes for a great partnership and helps ensure there is a pipeline for first-generation students to pursue 4-year degrees with a cohesive support system. On average, between 5-10% of TRIO SSS students at the university are transfer students.



TRIO Students Visit Michigan



Every Fall Break, while other students are having a day off, TRIO students load a bus for an exciting cultural day-trip. This past fall, TRIO students embarked on a trip to Detroit, Michigan. Students toured the Henry Ford Museum and learned about the Ford Motor Company, while also getting a glimpse into past human and civil rights movements. Students got to see a variety of artifacts including: the Rosa Parks bus, Wright Brother's bicycle shop, Lincoln's chair from the Ford Theater, historical aircrafts, presidential cars, and even the Oscar Meyer Weinermobile!

On-site, students also explored Greenfield Village and learned about life during the turn-of-the-century by visiting replica homes, businesses, and shops. In the village, horse-drawn wagons and Model T cars buzzed by students as they stepped back in time and listened to the town's people tell about Henry Ford's childhood and life during the 1800s. Students were able to take a

literal "walk down Main Street" to experience what living during this changing time in history was really like.

Next, students visited the Holocaust Memorial Center. The Center explained the history of Jewish culture and beliefs before the rise of the Nazi party in Germany. The Center also offered students a reminder of the atrocities and persecution Jewish families (and others) faced in the 1930s and 1940s. The tour concluded with a survivor talk given by George Erdstein, an individual who had narrowly escaped the Holocaust himself as a child. George lost his grandparents in the Holocaust and almost his own father. Hearing the account from someone who had actually lived and experienced the fear firsthand was very powerful for the students. One student exclaimed, "All this, just because one man hated so much?!"

Students also viewed a railroad car that had once carried men, women, and children to the concentration camps. Although the visit had a heavy undertone, students left with a greater understanding of history and the struggles that others have faced due to religious persecution.



TRIO Welcomes Largest New Group

Mirroring Purdue University Fort Wayne's increase in enrollment this past fall, TRIO SSS also welcomed its largest new student class ever. In August, 52 first-generation students joined Purdue Fort Wayne TRIO SSS. Students came from as far away as Florida and North Carolina. The number of students from the Chicago-Gary-Hammond area also saw a significant increase. Welcome to all the new TRIO SSS students at Purdue Fort Wayne.



TRIO Students Say It In 6®

Based on SMITH Magazine's, *Six-Word Memoirs* concept, *Say It In 6®* is a competition that challenges students to tell a story about their undergraduate or graduate experience at Purdue University Fort Wayne in a clear, concise, and creative way by using only six words and a visual aid. Students were invited to submit a contest entry focusing on one of these eight themes: Compassion, Diversity, Feminism, Hope, Identity, Purdue, Resilience, or Truth. The following TRIO students submitted entries for this year's competition: Cherry Aung, Blake Bratu, Lorenzo Catalan, Hugo Mata, and Alyssa Vance.



TRIO's own, Hugo Mata, was awarded first place awards for *Top Undergraduate Submission* and *People's Choice* for his submission titled, "Dance through the cracks in Life". Hugo's submission included a young girl cheerfully skipping over cracks in a sidewalk. Hugo enjoys photography as a hobby and was very excited to use his sister as the subject of his photo contest entry. The category he chose for his entry was Hope. Hugo was awarded \$450 for his winning entry. Great job TRIO students for all the creative entries.

TRIO Students Serve Up German Food



TRIO twins and hospitality majors, Ripley and Riley Friar, served and created authentic German cuisine at Am Wald, a student-led restaurant organized by the Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management during the fall semester. Hosted at the Holiday Inn, Riley specialized in creating desserts, including authentic German waffles, while Ripley assisted in the kitchen and serving patrons. The food and service were top notch!





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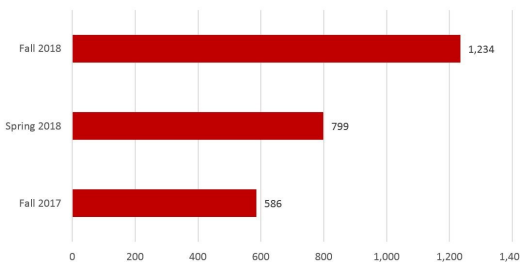
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TRIO Stats for Fall 2018

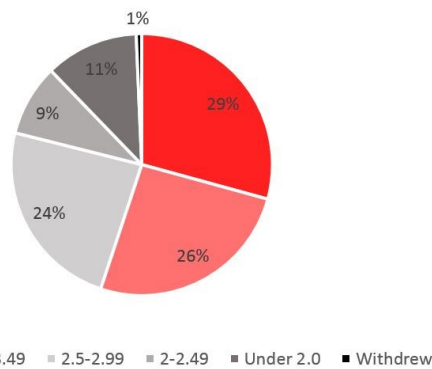
Hours of Use in TRIO Resource Center

118,234

TRIO Resource Room Usage (Student Sign-ins)



Fall 2018 Cumulative GPA-TRIO



Semester TRIO GPA

2.951

Cumulative TRIO GPA

2.975

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TRIO Annual Performance Data 2017-2018

Good Academic Standing

89%

Persistence

89%

Graduation Rate (6-year)

42%

TRIO Events

Workshops

Mondays 12-1pm

TRIO Resource Room KTG30

February 20: Entrepreneurship/VR

March 25 : Career Networking

Writing Circle

Mondays 12-1pm

TRIO Resource Room KTG30

February 25

March 18

April 3

TRIO Award Luncheon

Monday, April 8, 2019

12-1pm-Walb Ballroom