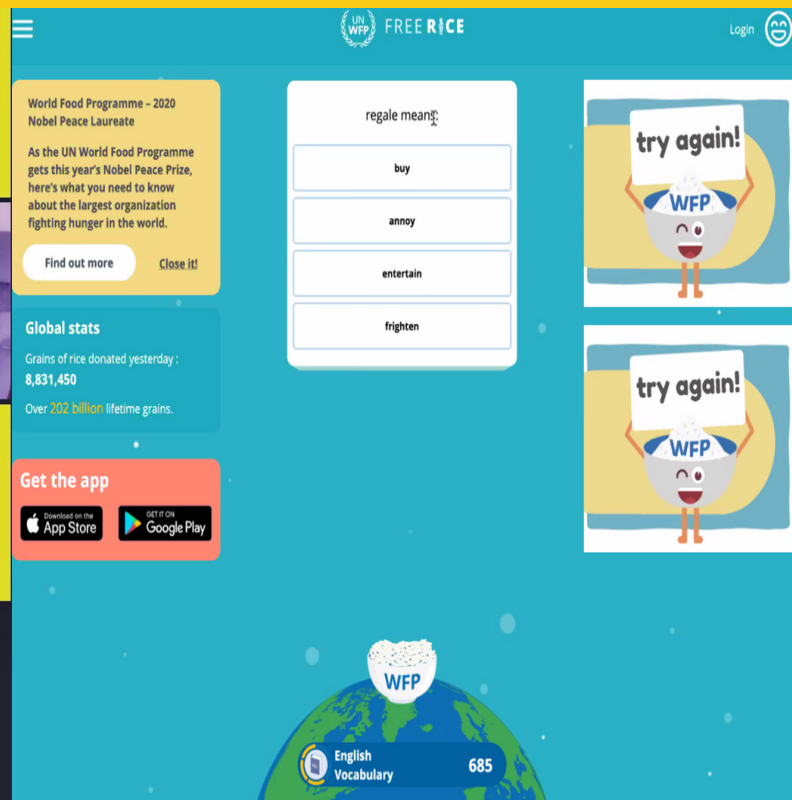
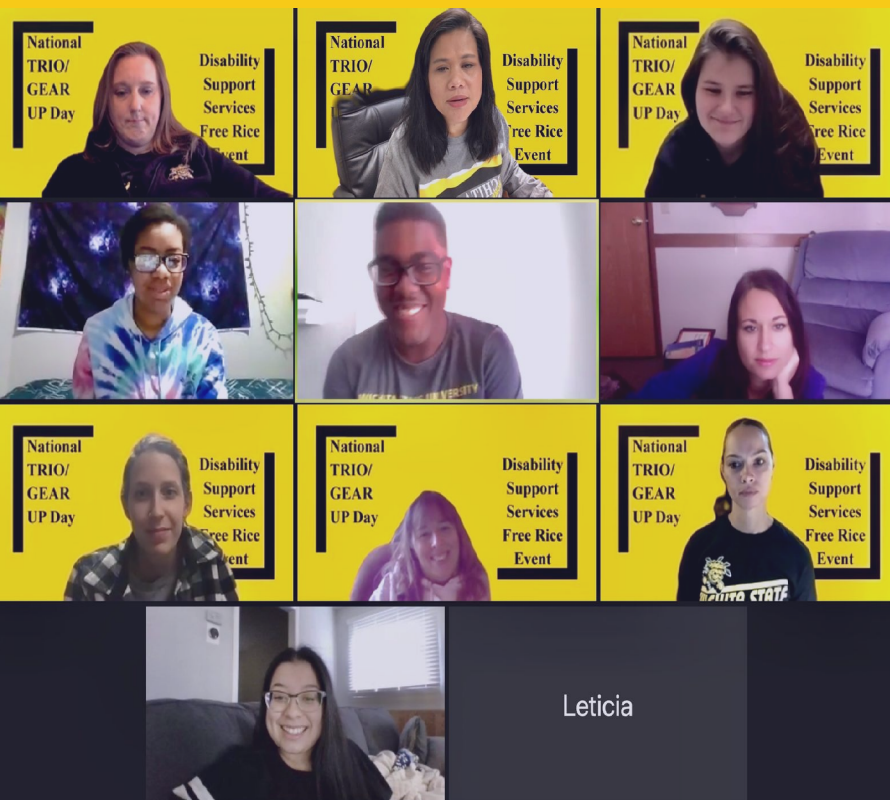


THE BEACON

TRIO DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES



Director's Message

Dear Students,
 Congratulations! You have made it! Fall semester was difficult and stressful due to the pandemic. However, you were committed to your educational journey and prevailed. We have missed you all on campus. We are here to support you and thank you for allowing us to be a part of your academic journey. Enjoy your winter break and we hope to see you in February! Also, congratulations to fall graduates! I am so proud of your achievements and wish you the best of luck as you embark on your career.

TRIO DSS Director,
 Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd



National TRIO/GEAR UP Day Community Service

DSS students and staff gathered virtually on Dec. 11 and participated in an online donation website, Free Rice as part of the National TRIO/GEAR UP Day celebration. The United Nations World Food Programme helps to save the lives of those experiencing hunger due to conflict or climate change. The United Nations World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization and was awarded the 2020 Noble Peace Prize. The Free Rice website allows participants to answer questions on various subjects in order to collect grains of rice. Each question answered correctly is the equivalent of the price of five grains of rice. In the lifetime of the Free Rice program over 202 billion grains of rice have been donated.

Students and staff are encouraged to continue participating in the Free Rice program and report to DSS the number of rice grains they accumulate. This effort will continue until Feb. 1 when a final total will be calculated to see the impact that DSS created towards The United Nations World Food Programme. Please join us in this effort at www.freerice.com. Students can report their numbers to their advisors.



Exceptional Creativity



Scenic Waterfall

DSS Student's Art Featured in the Cadman Art Gallery

DSS student and artist Akila Bulgin is a Junior in the College of Fine Arts at Wichita State University, home of the Shockers! This is the first time Akila has exhibited an art collection and is proud to present "Autumn Trilogy." In addition to painting landscapes, Akila enjoys drawing and painting American items such as fast food in a pop art style. Akila has also worked on printmaking, digital art with typography, ceramics, and stagecraft. Akila continues to build a high-quality art portfolio with this exhibit at The Cadman Art Gallery.

Artist's Statement on the Autumn Trilogy Collection

I am privileged to display a collection of paintings on exhibit at The Cadman Art Gallery this Fall 2020. I have titled this collection "Autumn Trilogy." The collection includes seven acrylic-on-canvas paintings focusing on autumn in Kansas. When I began to focus on painting natural scenery, I did not anticipate it would lead to this collection. "Exceptional Creativity," is the first painting of natural scenery I painted in the studio at Wichita State in 2016.

The second painting, "Scenic Waterfall," is the second painting I painted in the studio at Wichita State in 2017. These paintings are intended to show various colors, textures, and features of autumn. As esteemed professor and scientist, George Washington Carver once said, "Nature is the unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in."

This collection is also inspired by my grandparents' appreciation of art and of nature. I respectfully dedicate this art exhibit in loving memory of my grandparents. I also want to say thank you to my art professors for sharing their appreciation of art, including their valuable knowledge and expertise with me and to my advisors for encouraging me too. I am more confident in building a high-quality portfolio of artwork and accomplishing my goals of becoming a professional artist because of each of you. Thank you also to Matt, Tia, and to everyone at The Cadman Art Gallery, for this wonderful opportunity to display my artwork.



Graduate Spotlight: Chelsea Tafoya

Chelsea is a FL 2020 graduate earning a BA in Forensic Science. She has been an active participant in the DSS program for the past 3 years and has utilized many of our services including tutoring, the textbook lending library, and advising. Chelsea states, "My most rewarding experience is of course graduating, but also when I became a tutor for the program and got to help out fellow students with disabilities." We congratulate Chelsea, along with all of our other graduates, for their achievements and wish them well as they begin their careers.



Fall 2020 Student Achievement

Congratulations to all of our DSS students for your hard work and dedication during this challenging semester!

Students achieving GPA 3.5 or higher

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------|------------|
| L. Treto | A. Sims | D. Ludlow | C. Freeman |
| C. Booth | M. Siroky | S. Mann | Y. Barraza |
| A. Driggers | D. Fountain | J. Sekavec | E. Bowman |
| T. Vidales | B. Kempf | H. Katz | J. Marsh |
| S. Goodpasture | R. Fritze | L. Nieman | C. Fields |
| D. Owen | L. Kientz | J. Prudence | A. Kramer |
| A. Tracy | A. Fitzgerald | T. O'Hara | |
| M. Davis | M. Khan | I. Maravilla Contreras | |

Students achieving GPA 3.0 to 3.499

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| C. Tafoya | R. Rinn | M. Hibschman |
| H. Clark | J. Malsom | A. White |
| E. Finkeldei | K. Broekemeier | E. Leafgreen |
| W. Koerner | M. McGill | A. Bulgin |
| D. Morrow | M. McGruder | T. Falcon |
| T. Reynolds | J. Cocannouer | A. Hayes |
| A. Cook | S. Burkhart | S. Eckels |



Spring 2021 Scholarship Recipients

Phillip Bowers Memorial Beacon of Light Education Fund Scholarship

- Y. Barraza
- L. Nieman
- A. White

TRIO DSS Federal Grant Aid Award

- L. Treto

Educational Opportunity Fund Scholarship

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| A. Fitzgerald | J. Sekavec |
| L. Nieman | Z. Abul-Fazl |
| A. White | S. Burkhart |
| R. Fritze | S. Mann |
| E. Hedrick | E. Valdovinos |
| L. Treto | L. Kientz |
| A. Bulgin | R. Vannatter |
| M. McGruder | D. Morrow |
| C. Booth | C. Jackson |

Key Dates to Remember for Spring 2021

- Jan. 4-30 Spring Pre-session
- Feb. 1 Spring Semester Begins
- Feb. 5 Last day to add full-semester classes
- Feb. 12 Last day to drop and receive 100% refund for full-semester courses
- April 5 Last day to drop with a "W"



Get Prepared for SP 2021 Now

Make sure to start your Spring semester off on the right foot!

- Make an appointment to meet with your DSS advisor before the semester starts to determine which services you will need.
- Are you anticipating a difficult course in the upcoming spring semester? Consider receiving assistance from a DSS tutor. Tutoring works best when you request early, prior to falling behind. Be proactive and contact your DSS advisor during the week of January 25th, 2021 to request a tutor.
- Plan to attend our "Hit the Ground Running" workshop on Friday, January 22nd. More information to follow.
- Get a head start on workshop completion using the DSS Blackboard, study skills website, or have a one-on-one with your DSS advisor.
- Submit requests for textbooks begins the week of January 18th.



We are actively accepting applications for the Spring 2021 semester. Tutors are needed in the following areas: math, physics, psychology and statistics. Please encourage your peers to visit Handshake and apply today.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its employment practices, educational programs or activities on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. Retaliation against an individual filing or cooperating in a complaint process is also prohibited. Sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking are forms of sex discrimination and are prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. Complaints or concerns related to alleged discrimination may be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity or the Title IX Coordinator, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita KS 67260-0138; telephone (316) 978-3187.

TRIO Disability Support Services

1845 N Fairmount St.
Wichita, KS 67260-0145
Grace Wilkie Annex, RM 158
(316) 978-5949

TRIO DSS Staff

Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd, Director
Charity Lowe, Academic Advisor/Tutor Coordinator
Mercedes Lubbers, Academic Advisor/Study Skills Coordinator
Kayleen Hallberg, Administrative Specialist/Database Manager

Keep up to date with our future events and much more!

Visit our website and social media at:

<https://wichita.edu/dss>

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Twitter: @trio_dss

Instagram: wsu_trio_dss

Study Skills Website: <https://www.trio-dss.webnode.com>



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