

THE BEACON



TRIO DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

▶ Guiding Students Toward Success

Director's Message

Dear Students,
I want to congratulate each of you on rising to the occasion when faced with difficult and stressful times. I know it has been hard to transition to online learning. I am glad many of you reached out to your DSS advisors for help and requested tutors. We have missed you all on campus. Know that we are here to support you and thank you for allowing us to be a part of your academic journey. Good luck with the rest of the semester!



Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd, Director

TRIO DSS Ambassador Program

Last year, TRIO DSS developed an ambassador program. Our ambassadors are TRIO DSS students who have a love and passion for the TRIO DSS program and want to share that enthusiasm with other students inside and outside of the program.

DSS Ambassadors help with recruitment, presentations, and are available to talk with other DSS students for a sense of community. Students who might be interested in becoming a DSS Ambassador can contact Mercedes at mercedes.lubbers@wichita.edu.



TRIO DSS Ambassador Kathleen Black, TRIO DSS staff and TRIO DSS students participate in National TRIO Day

Current DSS Ambassadors

Kathleen Black
Emily Bowman
Abbygail Hayes
Sandy Johnson
Michael McGruder
Lillian Nieman
Chelsea Tafoya

Reminders

Make An Appointment

Meet with your DSS advisor at least once a month. They are here to help you and offer support.

Tutor Requests

Make an appointment now to request a tutor.



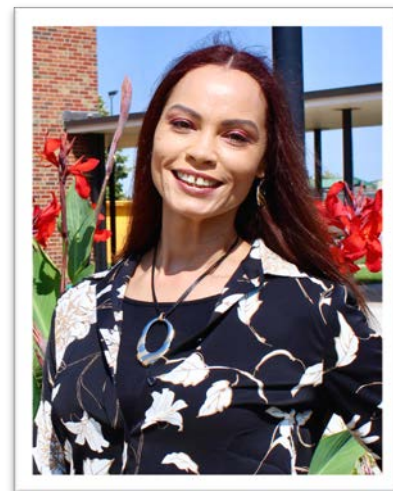
Welcome Our New Academic Advisor/Tutor Coordinator

The TRIO DSS program welcomes Charity Lowe as the new Academic Advisor/Tutor Coordinator replacing Kegan Clark. Charity will meet with all of Kegan's students and has been actively contacting them. If you haven't had a chance to meet with or talk to Charity, you can call her at 978-5956. She would love to hear from you! Please see below for a special introductory message from Charity.

Hello Students,

My name is Charity Lowe and I am excited to be joining TRIO DSS as the new Academic Advisor and Tutor Coordinator. I have a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Wichita State University and several years' experience working with first generation, limited income and students with disabilities in my former position as an Academic Advisor with Student Support Services. As a first generation, limited income, returning adult student, I took advantage of the free services offered by the Student Support Services program during my own undergraduate pursuit.

I enjoy gardening, baking and spending time with my family. My favorite part of working under TRIO programs is advising students and watching them grow into confident empowered individuals.



Charity Lowe
Academic Advisor/Tutor Coordinator



Important Dates For TRIO DSS Tutoring

Please take note of the following dates regarding tutoring:

- October 14-23 – Midsemester Student-Tutor Conferences
- October 27th – Last day to drop a class with a W
- October 30th – Last day to submit a request for a tutor for the Fall semester

Tips For Success In Online Learning

Taking online courses can be challenging for students who prefer taking class in person. We have come up with some tips and strategies to help students succeed in the online learning environment.

1. Create a productive learning workspace – set up a space in your home at a desk or table to work and stay organized.
2. Eliminate distractions – find a quiet place to study and keep your TV and phone turned off to avoid interruptions. Try to eliminate anything that will take your focus off of your studies.
3. Practice time management – set a schedule for completing and reviewing assignments and stick to the schedule.
4. Create a virtual study group – when you can't meet socially distanced with classmates, form a study group and meet via Zoom or Teams.
5. Communicate with your instructors ASAP if you are having difficulties – it can be harder to ask your instructors for help when you are not physically in the classroom. If you are needing help, ask right away to avoid falling behind.





Mercedes Lubbers
Study Skills Coordinator

Fall 2020 Workshops

We're almost halfway through the semester, don't forget to complete at least one study skill/career development workshop and one financial literacy workshop. We've already hosted two workshops this semester: Holland Codes with Career Development and Helping a Friend with Counseling and Prevention Services.

Don't miss out on our upcoming workshops. All workshops are held through Zoom and will begin at 1:00PM on the dates they are scheduled.

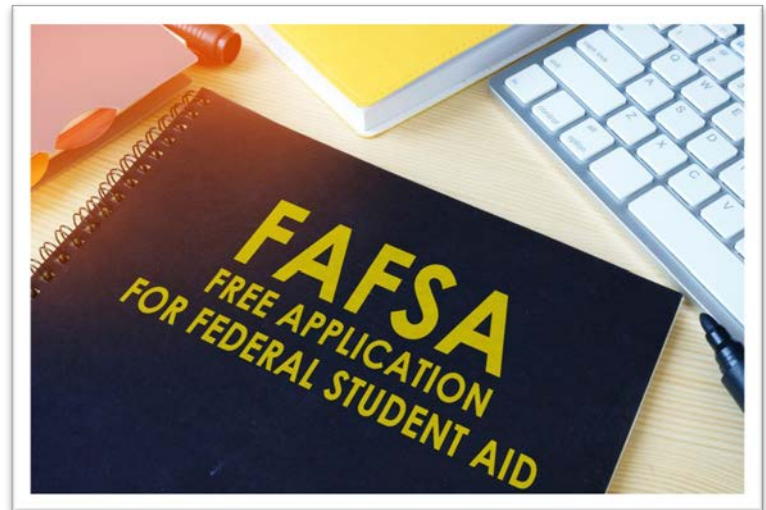
- FAFSA and Special Circumstance, Office of Financial Aid, Oct. 6th
- Test Anxiety, Office of Student Success, Oct. 21st
- Critical Thinking, Mercedes Lubbers, Nov. 3rd
- Financial Learning for Adults, Mercedes Lubbers, Nov. 18th

Can't attend the Zoom workshops? We have several options available to our students:

- TRIO DSS Study Skills Website: www.trio-dss.webnode.com
- TRIO DSS Online BlackBoard, found under your BlackBoard "My Organizations" tab
- One-on-one sessions with your TRIO DSS advisor
- Attend workshops hosted by other WSU departments (Career Development, Ablah Library, etc)
- Educational podcasts (contact Mercedes for a list of acceptable podcasts)

FAFSA Opens October 1st!

Submissions for the 2021-2022 FAFSA begins October 1st. Wichita State's priority date for FAFSA is December 1st, 2020. Early FAFSA submission gives you priority consideration for financial assistance and additional time to make informed financial decisions. Prepare for the FAFSA by making sure you know the difference between the different types of financial aid which includes scholarships, grants, work study, and loans. Meet with your TRIO DSS advisor to complete the FAFSA any time in October to receive financial literacy workshop credit.



FAFSA Prep Checklist

Make the FAFSA submission process easier by completing the following:

- Bookmark the FAFSA website: www.fafsa.gov
- Know your FAFSA login and password
- Gather your 2019 tax information
- Obtain parents' 2019 tax information (if applicable)
- Download the FAFSA app for your phone
- Make an appointment with your TRIO DSS advisor

Attention New TRIO DSS Participants!

If this is your first semester with the TRIO DSS program, please don't forget to complete your Career Pathways and Financial Literacy presurvey. It is important for us to know your level of knowledge and awareness in financial literacy and career choices. The survey results will help us to design workshops to fit your needs, improve on your knowledge, and enhance the delivery of workshops. Go to https://wichitastate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9viaJ6a4s195YEd or contact your DSS advisor at 978-5949.

Student Health and Safety

TRIO DSS staff wants to make sure that all of our students are taking care of themselves and staying safe and healthy during this challenging season. The university has been diligent in providing a number of resources to assist students. Please make sure to follow all WSU policies and procedures regarding COVID-19 to help prevent spread of the virus.

Daily Wellness Check

Check yourself daily for one or more of the following symptoms before leaving your home:

- Temperature of 100.4 F or higher
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Chills, repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain, headache, sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell



Notice of Nondiscrimination

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TRIO Disability Support Services

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316-978-5948 (fax)

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:

<http://wichita.edu/dss>

Facebook: Trio Dss

Twitter: @trio_dss

Instagram: wsu_trio_dss



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