



## TRIO DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

▶ Guiding Students Toward Success

### TRIO DSS Director's Message

Students,

Congratulations! You have made it! The semester has come to an end! I am so proud of each and every one of you during this unprecedented time. With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic we had to make major adjustments in order to make this a successful semester. TRIO DSS staff is thankful that we still have the privilege to continue serving and encouraging our students. We have had to learn to conduct advising, tutoring and study skills workshops through Zoom and other devices. You have adapted and overcome the challenges of transitioning to online learning.

Every spring we look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our students at our annual Student Recognition event. This year we had to make the difficult decision to cancel our annual event. We have decided to dedicate this newsletter to recognize your hard work and achievements. To the graduates, I applaud your efforts and congratulations on achieving your academic goal. Good luck and I look forward to seeing you in the fall.



Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajid,  
TRIO DSS Director



TRIO DSS Staff meeting through Zoom

### Congratulations Graduates!



#### Fall 2019

Collin Allen  
Madison Davis  
Aaron Esau  
Megan Fletcher  
Sara King  
Su Mi Leonard  
Malaya Pride

#### Spring & Summer 2020

Lacey Bailey  
Malarie Cook  
Tiffany Ho  
Darein Johnson  
Mikayla Kelley  
Barry Ketcham  
Benjamin Lansford  
Jo Luckey

Sheri Manchester  
Angela Nagel  
Aleah Sadeghi  
Jennie Smith  
Olivia Tickles  
Cassandra Thompson  
Brent Williams  
Stephon Wimbley

### 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 for Summer 2020.



## Graduate Spotlights

TRIO DSS is so proud of the accomplishments of all of our graduating seniors. We wish all of our graduates the best of luck moving forward and we are here to support you on your journey as you continue with your careers. We wanted to highlight just a few of our 2019-2020 graduating seniors and give them a chance to reflect on what participating in TRIO has meant to them.

### Madison Davis

FL 2019 Graduate, B.A. in Criminal Justice, Minor in Psychology  
Currently working on an M.A. in Criminal Justice at WSU

“TRIO DSS gave me the educational and emotional support I needed to complete my senior year of college. They offered so many wonderful resources that contributed to my academic success. My advisors encouraged me to reach for the stars!

My advice to other students would be to take advantage of every opportunity. You never know when certain skills will come in handy or how much you can benefit from attending a certain workshop.”



Madison Davis

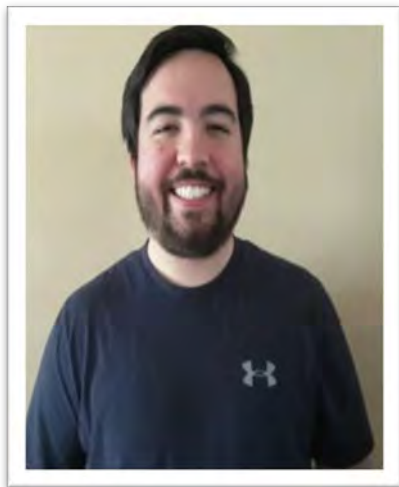
### Benjamin Lansford

SP 2020 Graduate, B.A. in Education, Focus History & Government 6-12

“To all of TRIO DSS,  
Truly your support really made a difference in my life and I was able to graduate because of your help. So sincerely thank you.

To any DSS students still struggling to make it through college, failure is not the end.

Only when you give up is it truly over. Because of our disabilities, we have to fight harder than anyone else to reach our dreams but that's okay. When you walk across that stage with a group of peers, you know you deserve to be there. They did not struggle like you. They did not fail like you. because of that, that piece of paper will never mean as much to them as it does to you. Do not let your disability define you. Let what you do with your life define who you are. You can do this!”



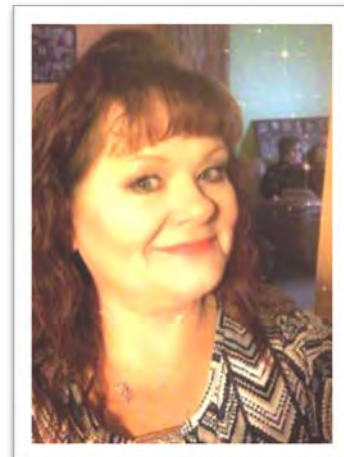
Benjamin Lansford

### Sheri Manchester

SP 2020 Graduate, B.G.S in Psychology & Social Work  
Plans to pursue Master's degree after graduation

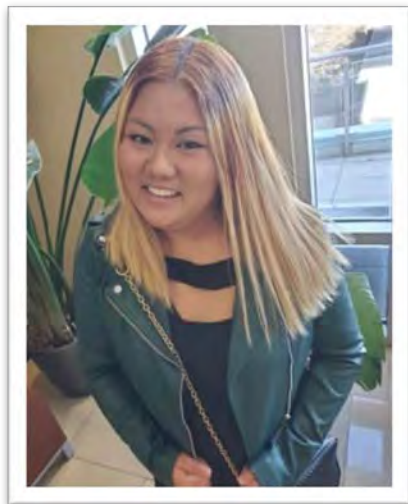
“I would like to thank Kegan and the TRIO department for helping me get through these last few years. I struggled to concentrate, I wanted to give up, and I had some personal issues come up, but Kegan stayed on me and pushed me forward. Now I am graduating with my Bachelors in General Studies in Psychology and Social Work.

If I can succeed in furthering my career, anyone can. Never give up and keep pushing forward. “



Sheri Manchester

## Student of the Year



Tiffany Ho

The Student of the Year is awarded each year to a DSS student who has maintained a high GPA, has participated fully in DSS activities, and has exemplified quality character while working to complete their academic goals. This year's Student of the Year is graduating senior, Tiffany Ho. Upon receiving the news of her award, Tiffany submitted the following remarks:

"I am honored to be named the TRIO DSS Student of the Year for 2019-2020. Being a part of TRIO DSS has been phenomenal! Everyone has treated me like family. I know I can count on Mercedes and Kegan to talk to when I need guidance to discuss topics that are flowing through my mind, such as burnout. There have been countless times where I felt like giving up, but the advisors here wouldn't let me choose this option as a possibility. I have found myself using the tips and skills presented through the workshops like note taking skills for example.

I have been a member of R.E.D.D. since the start, and I would like to say that being a part of it has also been amazing! I have enjoyed the bonding time I have had with many other students through the end of the semester parties and celebrations. I have used the great services provided through this program, such as free book rentals and tutoring. Thinking back through the four years, I still can't believe that I have made it to my last semester and nearing graduation! I know for sure I wouldn't have been able to accomplish this milestone in my life without the help and guidance of everyone at TRIO DSS here at Wichita State University. On the days when I feel down about a test or just feel out of it, I know I could always count on Kegan and Mercedes to talk to. Their personality and sunshine always puts a smile on my face!!! For those students that are just starting out, please remember to take it day by day and make memories as you go! I would also like to add that I have been accepted into the Masters of Business Administration with concentration in Business Analytics and Information Management for Fall 2020! I will apply what I have learned through TRIO DSS to the next chapter of my life - completing a Master's Degree! I am really thankful for the relationships that have formed through TRIO DSS and look forward to what new challenges there are to conquer in my near future. If you are reading this, just remember to keep your head up and persevere."

## Tutor of the Year

TRIO DSS's Tutor of the Year is awarded each year to a tutor who consistently exceeds expectations in furthering the program's mission, vision, and values. As a program, we strive to be recognized as a model peer tutoring program for Wichita State and its affiliates. This vision comes closer to reality each day thanks to the leadership and behaviors modeled by our 2019-2020 Tutor of the Year, Lillian Nieman. Since joining TRIO DSS's Peer Tutor Program in Fall 2019, Lillian has represented our program values of integrity, responsibility, and respect in each aspect of her work. Lillian has modeled these values throughout the semester both for her students, and the other tutors. She consistently completed all paperwork accurately and on-time, while never failing to be available for her students if they wanted an extra review session. Lillian attended all trainings and actively participated in our activities and discussions. Despite being a full-time student herself and a participant in the TRIO DSS program, she was always willing to accept more students who wanted help. We look forward to continuing to work with her in the future and thank her for her outstanding contribution to the TRIO DSS Peer Tutor Program.



Lillian Nieman



Sandy Johnson with her artwork dedicated to the class of 2020

## Student Art Work Dedicated to Class of 2020

TRIO DSS staff always encourages our students to use their gifts and talents to advocate for themselves and others. We accomplish this through the development of our Student Ambassadors program and our student organization R.E.D.D. One of our student ambassadors has taken that message to heart and reached out to her advisor with a message and art work that she wanted to share. DSS Student Ambassador Sandy Johnson submitted a painting that she had initially completed to encourage her brother but wanted to share the artwork and her message with our graduating seniors.

“I painted this painting to help show awareness for Autism, but it was also to represent all the students who do not get to walk on stage this year for their graduation whether they have Autism or not. The main reason I wanted to do this painting was because my little brother has Autism and he is also a graduate this year from high school. He had really been looking forward to graduating and walking for his graduation and now he doesn't get to experience what the rest of us got to experience.”

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### TRIO Disability Support Services

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### Staff:

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**Kegan Clark**, 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>

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Instagram: wsu\_trio\_dss



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*DIVISION OF DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT*

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