

Student Support Services

Rising Star

Shayla
Ingalls



Shayla Ingalls is a junior at Wichita State with a 3.9 GPA. Shayla is double majoring in communication sciences and disorders and psychology. In 2014, she enrolled in TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) because she needed academic support to graduate.

Shayla is very active at WSU. She's been accepted into the Honors College and looks forward to the research experience that is offered. She also holds many leadership roles in various campus organizations; she is a student ambassador, an honors peer mentor, an active member of the Community Service Board and the treasurer for Wichita Honors Events and Activities Team. Shayla promotes Wichita State by giving campus tours to prospective students. In her free time, she enjoys her friends, volunteering, reading and movies.

Shayla believes her educational experience has been enhanced with the support of SSS. She has overcome the financial hardships of college through scholarships and free printing that SSS offers. Academic advising from her SSS advisor has reduced her fears about college and made her feel welcomed and important. Currently, Shayla tutors for SSS where she is able to share her knowledge with other TRIO students. She plans to graduate in 2018, then pursue a doctorate degree in audiology in order work at a children's hospital. The support and opportunities offered by SSS make her believe her educational dreams are within arm's reach.

Outstanding Alum

Mikki
Phan, PhD



Mikki Phan, PhD graduated from Wichita East High School in 2003 and enrolled at Wichita State that fall. Despite not having a firm idea of what she wanted to study, she chose to attend college right away. Her mother, who was enrolled in college at the time, advised her to join SSS for guidance and support. There, she received tutoring for advanced chemistry courses and was offered scholarships for her good grades. Phan also participated in the McNair Scholars Program. She initially decided to study biochemistry but later changed her major to psychology. In May 2015, Phan earned a doctoral degree in human factors psychology from WSU.

Phan indicated one of her most memorable times at SSS was being a math and Spanish tutor. She especially remembers helping one student pass math upon the third attempt. This gave her great satisfaction knowing that she played a role in this student's success. Currently, Phan is a user experience researcher for Google in the San Francisco Bay Area.

When asked how SSS helped her in terms of her education and career path, Phan said, "SSS helped most through the counseling advice I received from Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd who encouraged me to pursue the major that I truly wanted instead of the one my parents wanted. Also, being a tutor for SSS helped build my confidence. Lastly, the scholarships I received from SSS were very beneficial toward my education as it helped in securing books and other materials during the time both my parents were laid off."