

**Western
Michigan
University**

SSP NEWS

A Newsletter of the TRIO Student Success Program

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TRIO
Student Success Program

Message from the Director Laura Ciccantell

Welcome to the TRIO Student Success Program!!

On behalf of the TRIO staff, I am very pleased to welcome you to the TRIO Student Success Program (SSP)! By joining the TRIO community at WMU, you have taken another important step toward meeting and exceeding your college and life goals. We're glad you're planning to join us in the fall! **If you have any questions, comments or concerns this summer or in the fall, please contact us at 269-387-4440 or through the website at www.wmich.edu/ssp.**

Some Important Reminders:

- You joined TRIO SSP by registering for a TRIO SSP section of FYE 2100. Interest in TRIO SSP is very high and we currently have a waiting list for the program. If you have changed your mind about joining TRIO SSP, please contact us and/or change to a different section of FYE 2100 so that we can offer spaces to students on the waiting list.
- Tuition rates have now been set by the WMU administration the 2007-08 school year and your financial aid award will soon reflect a "TRIO/SSP Freshman Seminar" scholarship. Please contact me if you have not received that scholarship by September 4, 2007.
- Please register now for Fall Welcome through GoWMU (unless you are part of Marching Band).
- When registering for Fall Welcome, please remember to indicate that you receive financial aid to have the best chance of receiving the \$150 Fall Welcome scholarship.
- Check your WMU e-mail often!! Pay special attention to e-mail from Financial Aid.

What is the TRIO Student Success Program?

The TRIO Student Success Program (SSP), a federally funded TRIO program, serves 210 Western Michigan University undergraduates each year. All SSP participants must meet at least one of the following criteria: neither parent has completed a four year college degree, family income does not exceed federal guidelines, and/or the student has a documented physical or learning disability. Since 1984, SSP has helped hundreds of WMU students achieve academic and personal goals, including academic excellence and graduation. SSP services are FREE to eligible participants, are provided by a caring, knowledgeable professional and student staff, and include:

*Mini-Computer Lab with Free Printing
*Laptop Lending Program
*Peer Mentors
*FYE 2100: First Year Experience Seminar
*Academic, Career, and Financial Advising
*Problem Solving and Resource Identification

*Priority Registration
*Leadership Development
*Graduate School Preparation
*Volunteer Opportunities
*Scholarships
*Tutoring

SSP STAFF

Laura Ciccantell

Director
269-387-4449
laura.ciccantell@wmich.edu

Richard McMullen

Academic Services Coordinator
269-387-2724
richard.mcmullen@wmich.edu

Charlotte Giscombe

Program Services Coordinator
269-387-4450
charlotte.giscombe@wmich.edu

Carol Reid

Office Coordinator
269-387-4440
carol.reid@wmich.edu

Heather Highhouse

Career Counselor
269-998-2925
heatherhighhouse@hotmail.com

Tips for College Success!!!

Adapted from: Dr. Mom's Guide to College

Here are some tips to make sure you get off to a great start at WMU!

- **BE PREPARED!!!** Get all school supplies and books and get settled into your residence hall or apartment before classes start so that you can focus on classes during your first couple weeks of school.
- Figure out a schedule that works for you! How much sleep do you need? How many classes can you take? How much time do you need to spend studying, working, working out, relaxing, etc.? Monitor your body and your success in classes to determine your “college self.”
- Get out and meet people! Join an organization, form a study group for a class, and, perhaps most importantly, don't go home every weekend. Sure, you may miss your high school friends and family, but there is a lot going on during the weekends at WMU and in Kalamazoo (watch for our upcoming events). Weekends give you a great opportunity to meet new people and get ahead with your school work.
- Talk to your professors during the first week. If they know you by name, it will be easier to talk to them later in the semester, and it also shows you care!
- Go to every class! Just because professors may not take attendance does not mean you do not have to go. Attending every class is a great habit to start.
- Make a list of goals and keep it someplace nearby to keep you focused.
- Have fun! Study! Meet new people! Get involved in different organizations! Find a good balance between work and fun you will be able to stay focused and have a great experience at WMU!



Meet Your TRIO SSP Instructors!!!!!!

As the Program Services Coordinator, Charlotte Gismombe is responsible for the mentoring, leadership and co-curricular components of TRIO SSP. Charlotte also hires, trains, and supervises the Program Mentors who work very closely with her as they mentor students inside and outside of the First Year Experience classroom; and develops co-curricular activities for all TRIO SSP students.

Charlotte also advises TRIO SSP students in the areas of academics, financial aid, careers, graduate school, and scholarships. In the spring semester she teaches two sections of UNIV 1020: Career Exploration and Development for TRIO SSP students.



Charlotte is looking forward to the fall semester and hopes that students enjoy their experience with TRIO SSP and can take away many valuable lessons about themselves, the university, and life.

Rich McMullen has been with TRIO SSP at WMU since 1995. As the Academic Services Coordinator, he hires, trains, and supervises the Academic Mentors who work with the first-year students as part of the FYE 2100: First Year Experience Seminar. He also teaches FYE 2100.

Rich also works with TRIO SSP students as an advisor for academic, financial aid, career, and other issues. In the Spring Semester he teaches a section of ANTH 1200: Peoples of the World just for TRIO SSP students.

Rich looks forward to getting to know the incoming first-year students and working with them as they move through their academic careers at Western Michigan University.



Laura Ciccantell came to WMU as the TRIO SSP Director in 2001. She previously worked as a TRIO advisor at Kansas State University and as the Director of the Academic Resource Center at Kalamazoo College.

In addition to program administrative duties, Laura teaches FYE 2100 and is a resource for TRIO SSP students with questions about a variety of issues including academics, financial aid, careers, graduate school, and scholarships.

Laura is also active in the Michigan TRIO organization and loves finding new resources for WMU TRIO students.



Welcome to WMU!!

Heather Highhouse came to WMU as a graduate student in Counseling Psychology and joined the TRIO SSP staff as a graduate assistant in May 2004. Upon completing her master's degree in December 2005, Heather became TRIO SSP's Career Counselor.

In addition to career counseling and career assessments, Heather teaches FYE 2100, UNIV 1020, and is a resource for TRIO SSP students with questions about a variety of issues including study abroad opportunities, internships and graduate school.

Heather enjoys working with individual students to help them develop their own career action plans as well as working with volunteer opportunities, including Girls on the Run and Relay for Life.



TRIO Student Success Program

Western Michigan University

1903 W. Michigan Ave.

Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5303

Phone: (269) 387-4440

www.wmich.edu/ssp



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