The TRiO Student Support Services Newsletter

Spring 2016

Armstrong State University

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Meet the TRIO Staff

Natasha Lambert
Bachelor of Arts, Sociology & Anthropology with a minor in Spanish.
Master of Science, Public Health with a focus in Community Health.

Cody Williams
From Niles MI.
Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Science.
Pursuing a doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Malisha Moses
From Augusta, GA
Pursuing a master’s degree in Public Health.

Faith Douglas
From Savannah, Georgia
Bachelor of Science, Political Science and a Bachelor of Arts, History. Master of Public Administration
Pursuing Master of Arts in Teaching, Secondary Education.

Malisha Moses (Right), Retention Specialist

TRIO Perks
TRIO SSS has a study lounge just for TRIO scholars. Located in Ashmore 114 the study lounge is open from 8:30 am to 8 pm and is equipped with desk top computers, free printing, whiteboard and tables that seat up to six people. Scholars may check out lap tops, TI-84 calculators, markers and other supplies for their use. Tutoring will also be available in various subjects. Private tutoring is also available at no charge to TRIO scholars. It is a great place to meet, do homework, and study!

Help wanted
Tutors in all subjects on an as needed basis at $11/hour. Contact Andrea Willingham at 912.344.3343 for more information. Students are strongly encouraged to apply!

Applications and Referrals
TRIO SSS takes referrals! If you know a current or incoming student who is eligible and would benefit from TRIO services please refer them to the TRIO website, send them to the TRIO office or give us a call. Applications can be dropped off at the office or emailed to our email address.

Academic Early Alert
If you are a faculty member who has a TRIO scholar in your classroom, please let us know how he/she is doing. The TRIO SSS Academic Early Alert Program provides faculty and staff an opportunity to identify TRIO scholars needing additional support. Professors who observe a pattern of behavior that may endanger a scholar’s success are encouraged to provide an early alert notice preferably in the first few weeks of the semester. A scholar may be referred for intervention at any time during the semester. The reporting is quick and easy. You may go to our website and click on the “Early Alert Reporting Form” under Quick Links or use this link: http://tinyurl.com/zjfs4y8.

Jalisa Harden
Tennessee Native
Bachelor of Science, Child and Family Studies Pursuing Master of Arts in Teaching.

Natasha Auguste
From Florida
Bachelor of Science, Psychology
Pursuing a master’s degree in Public Health.

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give!
-Winston Churchill

Want to become a Near-Peer Coach?
Call Andrea Willingham at 912-344-3343.

Ashmore Hall Suite 101 • 912.344.3023
TRIO@armstrong.edu • armstrong.edu/trio

The Armstrong-Student Support Services Project is a U.S. Department of Education TRIO Program and is supported from 2015-2020 by $219,999 (100%) in Federal funds each year.

Jessica Simmons (Left), Administrative Assistant III

Mrs. Jessica M. Simmons may be new to the administrative assistance position but not new to TRIO Programs. She was a student in both the Talent Search and the Upward Bound programs. “I see this position as an opportunity for me to give back to young people what was instilled in me by TRIO. This nurturing organization contributed so much to my growth and development,” Simmons said.

Jessica is a 2008 Cum Laude graduate of Savannah State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. While at Savannah State, she was a member of Beta Beta Biological Honor Society and Phi Gama Mu Social Science Honor Society. Simmons is a native of Savannah. Jessica’s hobbies are reading and baking. She is married to husband, Calvin Simmons, and they have one daughter, Zoe Ella Simmons.

Andrea Willingham (Right), Retention Specialist

Mrs. Andrea Willingham joined Armstrong State University in March of 2016 and serves as the Retention Specialist for TRIO Student Support Services. As the TRIO Retention Specialist, her duties primarily consist of assisting TRIO scholars with educational, career, and financial planning. Additionally, Mrs. Willingham oversees the TRIO Near-Peer Coaches and tutors. Mrs. Willingham graduated from Auburn University with a Bachelor of Arts in English. Later, she pursued graduate studies at Troy University where she received her Master of Science in Postsecondary Education. With over ten years of higher education experience, primarily as an academic advisor, Mrs. Willingham has had the opportunity to work at the university and community college level.
The history of TRIO is progressive. TRIO began with Upward Bound, which came out of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 in response to the War on Poverty. In 1965, the second outreach program, Talent Search, was created as part of the Higher Education Act. In 1968, Student Support Services, which was originally known as Special Services for Disadvantaged Students, was authorized by the Higher Education Amendments and became the third in a series of educational opportunity programs. By the late 1960’s, the term “TRIO” was coined to describe these federal programs.

TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Mission

The Student Support Services Program is designed to—
(a) Increase the college retention and graduation rates of eligible students;
(b) Increase the transfer rate of eligible students from two-year to four-year institutions; and
(c) Foster an institutional climate supportive of the success of students who are limited English proficient, students from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education, individuals with disabilities, homeless children and youth, foster care youth, or other disconnected students; and
(d) Improve the financial and economic literacy of students in areas such as: basic personal income, household money management, and financial planning skills; and basic economic decision-making skills.

Meet the Director

Mrs. Corine Ackerson-Jones is the director of TRIO Student Support Services. In this position, Mrs. Ackerson-Jones oversees this federally funded program providing comprehensive academic coaching services, financial aid, financial literacy education and mentorship programs to participants. Mrs. Jones joined Armstrong in 2006 as an academic advisor and served as Coordinator of Recruitment and Retention for the College of Health Professions for more than six years. In that role, she developed a number of successful initiatives, including the Living-Learning Community, in which students with similar interests and goals live and study together on campus. She also developed the Health Careers Summer Camp, which encourages economically and environmentally disadvantaged Georgia high school students to pursue careers in the health professions.

Money Talks by Dr. Wayne Johnson

Dr. Wayne Johnson, Associate Professor of Engineering Studies has a passion for teaching, but his teaching passion goes beyond engineering. On April 19, 2016, Dr. Johnson gave TRIO Scholars the tricks of the trade when it comes to basic personal income, household money management, budgeting, and personal banking. Scholars were given the opportunity to ask questions during the presentation as well as comment on personal financial stewardship and practices.

Career Development

All TRIO scholars take the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and the Strong Interest Inventory. These assessments help scholars understand themselves better and guide them towards careers they will find most fulfilling. Scholars made appointments with Career Services to discuss their results. The results are also a topic of discussion with TRIO staff during one on one meetings. Crystal Goode, Assistant Director of Career Services will present workshops in the fall for TRIO scholars based on MBTI and Strong results.