

# Quarterly Newsletter

TRIO SSS



June 2025



## Here's what has happened in the last 3 months and what's to come!

We are excited to welcome you to the first edition of the Kellogg Community College TRIO Student Support Services Newsletter!

TRIO is more than a program, it's a movement. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, TRIO provides first-generation, income-eligible college students and students with disabilities the support they need to stay on track, graduate, and transfer. From one-on-one academic coaching to career and leadership experiences, TRIO WORKS because we work with and for our students.

You may have heard recent discussions at the national level about reducing or even eliminating funding for TRIO programs. While those conversations are real, so is our resilience.

TRIO is a bipartisan initiative with a long legacy of success. We have champions on both sides of the aisle advocating in Washington, D.C., and even more importantly, we have proof right here at KCC that TRIO is changing lives every single day.

We're proud of the scholars who represent this program with excellence, and we invite you to help spread the word. TRIO isn't a secret, it's a service. And we want every eligible student to know we're here.

Enjoy this newsletter and thank you for being a part of the TRIO family.

TRIO SSS

### In this newsletter you can expect:

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Meet Our Interim Director

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Meet Our Department Assistant & Records Manager

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Spring & Summer Highlights

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Upcoming July & August Events

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TRIO Moments That Matter

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## APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

During the Spring term, TRIO students gave back to the community by volunteering every other Friday at the local Community Food Pantry. This opportunity not only allowed our scholars to serve others but also helped build teamwork, empathy, and a sense of civic responsibility. We are proud of the impact our students continue to make both on and off campus.

TRIO hosted a 3-day Lunch & Learn Workshop Series, “Spring Up: Learn Today- Lead Tomorrow”, designed to equip students with tools for academic and career success.

- Day 1: “Get Hired” – Resume building, interview prep, and career readiness
- Day 2: “Wealthy Wednesday” – Financial literacy, budgeting, and future planning
- Day 3: “Nacho Average Student” – Study skills, time management, and academic confidence.



### Meet Our New Interim Program Director: Jennifer Underwood-Davis

A proud native of Texas, Mrs. Underwood-Davis brings over 17 years of higher education experience. She has held leadership roles in Financial Aid, Enrollment Management, and now TRIO. She consistently working to help students navigate their path to graduation.

She is currently completing her Doctoral degree in Higher Education Student Affairs Administration Leadership, and brings a deep commitment to student development, access, and success.



### Meet Matonya Seuell

TRIO is excited to highlight Matonya Seuell, who now serves as our Department Assistant and Records Manager. A familiar face at KCC, Matonya has supported students for years and brings a wealth of knowledge, a sharp attention to detail, and a heart for service.

Whether she's assisting with events, tracking academic progress, or ensuring smooth operations behind the scenes, Matonya plays a vital role in keeping TRIO organized and effective.

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## MAY HIGHLIGHTS



### Detroit

TRIO scholars traveled to Detroit where they toured Wayne State University and explored the Henry Ford Museum.



### From Cap to Calm

Graduates also enjoyed a relaxing send-off with certificates, self-care kits, and wellness tips to stay grounded during the summer.



### Ja'Kare Harden

Ja'Kare Harden received the prestigious **\*\*Golden Hammer Award\*\***, recognizing his dedication, determination, and consistent effort to build his academic future.



### Kiron Sears

Kiron Sears was awarded the **\*\*Emerging Leader Award\*\***, acknowledging his growth, leadership potential, and active engagement in the community.



### Recognition

For the first time in KCC history, TRIO graduates were recognized with honor cords and stoles at Commencement.

Congratulations to both scholars for setting an inspiring example for us all. We are so proud of you!

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## JUNE HIGHLIGHTS



### Exploration in Chicago

In June, scholars embarked on an overnight trip to Chicago filled with academic and educational exploration:

- Toured Chicago State University
- Visited the Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, and Griffin Museum
- Enjoyed a narrated architecture boat tour at Navy Pier

The Chicago Educational Experience provided TRIO SSS scholars with a well-rounded experience that combined academic exposure and enrichment. By participating in this trip, scholars gained valuable insights into higher education pathways and were inspired by the history and legacy of the exposure. This was a transformative experience that aligned with TRIO SSS's mission to empower and guide students toward academic and career success.

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COMING UP



## Florida Exploration Experience

TRIO is heading to Orlando, Florida this July for a 2 day Leadership Workshop Series hosted at Disney's EPCOT and Hollywood Studios. Students will explore communication, leadership, teamwork, and global awareness through interactive workshops.

The group will also visit Bethune-Cookman University, learning more about the legacy of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune.



## Washington D.C. & New York Enrichment Trip

Our final Academic Enrichment & Career Exploration trip will take us to Washington D.C. and New York!

- ◆ Campus tours of Howard and Columbia University
- ◆ Visits to historic national landmarks
- ◆ A Broadway production
- ◆ Workshops and educational sessions

Only 20 spots available! Deadline to register is July 10. *RSVP link will be sent to your KCC email.*

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### Fall Semester Reminder:

Fall classes will begin on August 25, 2025. If you haven't registered yet, now is the time! Please stop by the TRIO office if you need help with registration, academic planning, or have questions about your fall schedule. We're here to support you every step of the way.

*enjoy  
every  
moment.*

This summer has been filled with growth, learning, laughter, and leadership—and we've captured it all! Be sure to check your email and TRIO's student portal for links to our summer photo galleries!

“I believe TRIO is more than a program, it’s a promise. A promise that students won’t have to walk this journey alone. We are committed to showing up for our scholars, providing them with the resources and experiences they need to succeed, and celebrating every milestone along the way.”

—  
*Jennifer Underwood-Davis, Interim Director*

The logo for TRIO Works features the word "TRIO" in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "i" is red and has a red dot above it. Below "TRIO" is a thin horizontal line, and under that line is the word "Works" in a red, serif font.

**TRIO**  
Works