

The Right **i**nvolvement **O**n Campus

Chicken Soup for the Soul

“A well developed sense of humor is the pole that adds balance to your steps as you walk the tightrope of life.”

~William Arthur Ward



Kia Tillman

Hometown: Calhoun Falls, S.C.

Major(s): Criminal Justice, Human Services

Hobbies: Movies, television, music

Favorite Movie: *A Walk to Remember*

Kia has been with TRIO SSS since its inception in fall 2015. She is always telling SSS staff members that she is going to “quit” school. However, we all know that she is kidding. On the contrary, Kia is very motivated to excel in her studies and talks about pursuing a graduate degree after earning her bachelors. She keeps us laughing and we all enjoy all her visits to the office. She keeps us motivated too!

Fall 2016 Dean’s List

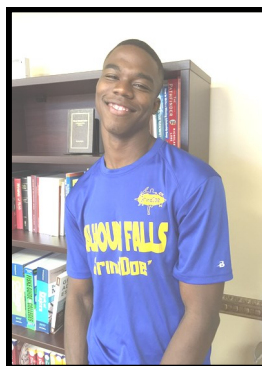
- Brandy Whitmire
- Micah Johnson
- Erin Harrison
- Wes Wilson
- Andrea Conner
- Madison Stencil
- Jake Wiles
- Daniel Shiflet
- Kayla Payne
- Brittany Shepard
- Daisy Duncan
- Ashton Langston
- Amber Ayers
- Amy Lunsford
- Sara Sweatt
- Ashley Eades
- Shelby Stroud
- Abbey Welch
- Bradley Dickson
- Madison Prater
- Kayla Parks
- Jenna Griffin
- Curtis Burkhalter
- Marla Burgos
- Jess Maggio
- Kayla Kimble
- Dante Shanks

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Rico Holland



Rico is definitely a TRIO gem. He keeps us on our toes throughout the semester. Rico has been a member of TRIO SSS since fall 2015. As an athlete, it has been difficult for him to participate in most SSS activities, but Rico is one student who uses TRIO services well. We appreciate his questions because this curiosity has allowed TRIO staff to make improvements to the program. Rico is a young entrepreneur who has been pursuing his own business while in college. When you see Rico on or off campus, ask him about his “GrindDoe” label and what it stands for. He has a golden smile and we are going to miss him when he graduates. Rico plans to pursue a career in Sports Management as a recruiter. We wish him well and encourage him daily as he plans to graduate in May 2017.

Welcome to our new staff



Lawana Seigler has been hired as the secretary for TRiO Student Support Services. She grew up in the local community, and along with her husband and family, followed God’s call to serve as a cross-cultural missionary for two decades in Asia. Lawana and her husband Allan enjoy spending time with their three children and son-in-law. Lawana has a passion for supporting and encouraging others to reach their fullest potential, and looks forward to serving TRiO Student Support Services participants.



TRiO Students Serve as Orientation Leaders

Orientation Leaders serve under the direction of Dr. Justin Carter, Associate Vice-President of Student Engagement, to help facilitate the transition of new students to the Southern Wesleyan college community. The primary responsibility of an orientation leader is to be a student resource as well as lead a small group of new students in several challenge activities. Additionally, orientation leaders serve as ambassadors on and off campus for the Southern Wesleyan community and provide support to students and families.

TRIO SSS members who also serve as Orientation Leaders 2016-17:

- Jerome Wimphrie
- Jarvis Johnson
- Kay Kay Kimble
- Brandy Whitmire
- Hannah Martin
- Christian Collier
- Mekaylah Mauney
- Jenna Griffin
- Madison Prater
- Malek Martin
- Cameron Cromer
- Brittany Nelson
- Nicole Ritchey



Congratulations to TRIO SSS

December Graduates



**THE TASSEL
IS WORTH THE
HASSLE!**

Daisy Duncan
Brittany Shepard
Dante Shanks



TRiO Scholar of the Month

Kayla Eison



Have you ever found yourself in a place filled with unlimited opportunity? A place where there are people who dedicate their time to helping you survive the college life? Well, I have. As a college senior with a major in Social Science at Southern Wesleyan University, I participate in many groups, activities, and clubs. I am privileged to be a participant in Trio's Student Support Services Program for first generation students. Born and raised in a small city in South Carolina, I am the first in my family to attend college; therefore, this experience is "kind of a big deal". It isn't that my family does not have the potential to succeed in college, they simply lack the drive and motivation necessary to pursue a college degree. However, my family members are strong and successful in other areas of their lives.

As an active member of the Trio SSS program, I have been afforded many opportunities to enhance my education and leadership abilities. As a first generation student working toward graduation, adjusting to all the

expectations of college is a very new practice for me. I had not heard anything about TRIO SSS until I met Maggie Turner, who later introduced me to Stephanie Rodriguez, Sharde Young, and last but certainly not least, our TRIO Director, Melissa Browning. I have learned so much just by being present in the Trio SSS office and by devoting my time to seeking help in areas wherein I struggle. Seeking assistance is difficult for me because I rarely ask for help for fear of rejection in the response. With Trio SSS, the responses are always hopeful and generally lead to valuable resources. TRIO advisors have been instrumental in my decision to attend graduate school. The constant reminders and motivation from Sharde Young push me to weigh my options. Attending graduate school has gone from an *impossible* to a *possible* goal. I have now begun the graduate school application process and look forward to being accepted into Liberty University Online in the fall. I am sending a special thank you to the TRIO staff who have helped make my dreams a reality and give me the courage to conquer the future! Trio is definitely a program designed for success!

Scholar Highlight

Eric Medina



Eric joined TRIO SSS in fall 2015. He presented as a shy, but strong-minded young man who knew what he wanted in a career but just didn't quite know how to get there. He and his SSS advisor had many conversations about his strengths and determination to excel in his academics. After joining TRIO SSS, Eric seemed to soar and we especially noticed his desire to reach for the stars and not put limits on himself. Eric did more than reach for the stars, he did not put limits on God. He took the limits off of himself. We are proud to say that Eric graduated in fall 2016 with a Bachelors in Criminal Justice. His dream career is to work for the FBI. However, Eric completed a demanding internship as Guardian ad litem in the Greenville County judicial system. He was very excited about the role he played in that position. Just prior to graduating from SWU, Eric took a job with the Anderson County Department of Social Services as an investigator. He plans to apply for graduate school in fall 2017. We are extremely proud of this young man!

Follow the examples of Christ, Paul, and Peter who were all hard workers. Work hard, pray hard, preach hard, and study hard.

**TRIO
WORKS!**

SSS Conference Travel 2017

Wanda Hendricks-Bellamy Student Leadership Conference Myrtle Beach, South Carolina



Front Row: Olivia Timmons, Brandy Whitmire, Erin Harrison, Akilah Jefferson, Ashley Melendez, Andrea Conner.

Back Row: Jarvis Johnson, Melissa Browning, Shanda Russell, Cathey Johnson, Sharde Young, Chastity Bradley, Micah Johnson.

TRiO SSS participants had the privilege of attending *The Wanda Hendricks-Bellamy Student Leadership Conference* in Myrtle Beach, SC, held January 13-15, 2017. The leadership conference, which is sponsored by The Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (SAEOPP), had for its theme this year, *"The Building Blocks of Leadership."* Conference attendees had the opportunity to network with students from other South Carolina public high schools and colleges, as well as TRiO alumna and professional staff. Students

attended various workshops, listened to engaging speakers, and enjoyed a semi-formal banquet on Saturday night and other hospitality events held during the conference.

ABOUT TRIO

Our nation has asserted a commitment to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance. In support of this commitment, Congress established a series of programs to help low-income Americans enter college, graduate, and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life. These Programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are referred to as the TRIO Programs (initially just three programs). While student financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRIO programs help students overcome class, social, and cultural barriers to higher education.

WHO IS SERVED

As mandated by Congress, two-thirds of the students served must come from families with incomes under \$33,000, where neither parent graduated from college. More than 2,800 TRIO projects currently serve nearly one million low-income Americans. Many programs serve students in grades six through 12. 37% of TRIO students are Whites, 35% are African-Americans, 19% are Hispanics, 4% are Native Americans, 4% are Asian-Americans, and 1% are listed as "Other," including multiracial students. Twenty-two thousand students with disabilities and more than 25,000 U.S. veterans are currently enrolled in the TRIO Programs as well. For more race and ethnicity data for each TRIO Program (Upward Bound, UB Math/Science, SSS, Talent Search, EOC, and McNair), see "Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Federal TRIO Programs," a News You Can Use fact sheet from the National TRIO Clearinghouse.

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Visit us on the web!

<http://www.swu.edu/academics/academic-support/trio-student-support-services>