

UTSA[®] TRiO

Student Support Services

Engage

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Summer 2018



As we look forward to the new fiscal year, TRiO Student Support Services at UTSA has been busy over the summer creating opportunities for our participants as well as planning for the 2018-2019 school year.

Firstly, in July we took our students on an educational and cultural, three days and two nights, trip to Corpus Christi! On the first day, John, Jaz, and fourteen of our students had the chance to visit Texas A&M Corpus Christi and attend their graduate school tour, as well as meet with their SSS Program on campus. Afterwards, we traveled over to Texas A&M Kingsville to check out their Grad and SSS program, too. The students enjoyed the opportunity to see other campuses and to expand their knowledge of various Graduate Programs outside of UTSA.



On the second day, we teamed up with The City of Corpus Christi and attended an all-day seminar called “5 Choices to Extraordinary Productivity,” wherein participants engaged in a lecture and activities detailing time management skills. This seminar helped optimize our students’ academic achievement, and let



the students take home guidebooks, bonus material, and a notebook so that they may continue refining their productivity skills. After the long day learning, our group closed the night out with a Hooks baseball game.



On the final day, students learned about local and exotic marine life at the renowned Texas State Aquarium. Students enjoyed the opportunity to get up close to the animals and learn more about our fragile ecosystem. At the end of our trip, participant evaluations of the trip were by far the most positive we have ever received! Specifically, students loved the opportunity to leave the city, learn valuable time management skills, and get to know other participants in the program. We look forward

to implementing more trips like these for our students.

Camp TRiO was our second event of the summer, where our new cohort of students were invited to learn more about what we will be providing them, expectations, and what to look forward to in the Fall semester!

For this Camp TRiO, we had guest speaker Reggie Reid come to talk about financial health with our students. The talk was engaging, informative, sobering, and funny. Afterwards, Mr. Reid promised that the first five people who emailed him for financial advice would receive a donated copy of *The Richest Man in Babylon*, a book that he highly recommends. Instead, Mr. Reid graciously donated a copy to every student who emailed him, as well as



donated a few extra copies to the office! The staff and students want to thank him for his time, information, and generosity that we received.



We also had a lot of help from our very own TRiO Ambassadors (TRiAMs), who worked hard to set up, break down, put on skits, and facilitate a smooth, educational, event! We are

thankful for the addition of our TRiAM LEADs Anna Luera, Crystal Hernandez, and Stephanie Opah, who help guide our TRiAMs.

Finally, our very own Dr. Abel Gonzales gave a resounding and inspirational speech to our students recognizing their efforts and putting their futures into perspective. We would like to thank Dr. Gonzales for coming and cementing for our students what we are here to achieve!



Here is just a snippet of what the student responses that we received looked like:

- “[I learned] what the TRiO program is, the opportunities, financial literacy, SSS is a family that helps each other to succeed.” – Emily
- “[I learned that] TRiO will help us with anything we need, we are a family.” – Karen
- “[I] learned how to better manage my money, how to make the most of it by saving. To trust TRiO.” – Hugo

Of course, we look forward to following through on our student’s expectations in this new Fall 2018 semester!



For the Fall 2018 semester we have many exciting plans and opportunities for our students. Firstly, with the wonderful addition of Bethany Mayott to our office, her plans for trips have become quite the topic of conversation in the office! We plan on taking four trips this semester, ingeniously named TRiO Tours by Bethany, and their goal is to connect students with cultural, educational, and graduate school opportunities around San Antonio and Texas!

So far, we plan on attending a Latin Art tour and take part in some delicious Mexican sweet breads at the famous Mi Tierra for our cultural trip to the San Antonio Museum of Art, which currently has more than thirty students have signed up for. We are also looking forward to a couple grad school trips to our sister school University of Texas at Austin and a trip to Texas State. We are hoping to hold a trip to iFly, the indoor skydiving experience, to give our STEM majors an opportunity to learn about the science behind it. Finally, we are wanting to take a trip to USAA to inspire our students future career choices.

As for on campus events, we are having our TRiAMs hold various workshops throughout the semester, from how to get involved in a summer research project to how to become a doctoral student. The TRiAMs are also responsible for creating and promoting volunteer opportunities for our participants to get engaged with our community, as well as hosting and attending various social events on and off campus. The goal for our TRiAMs is not only be a student contact for our participants in the program, but also to be leaders in facilitating educational and social growth in our students.



This semester marks the second occurrence of The Big Event in our program. In Spring 2018, we piloted Big Event: Career Launch, wherein we partnered with the Career Center here on campus to give our students help with interviewing, internships, and resume writing. The students appreciated a chance to all get together, interact, and learn. This semester we are holding Big Event: Adulting 101 in which we will have guest speakers and graduated SSS participants come and help our students learn how to be adults. Life post-grad! Credit scores! Bills! It'll be great.

Finally, we will end our semester with Roadrunners Achieving Continuous



Excellence (R.A.C.E.) where we will honor our students who are graduating, look back at what we have all accomplished, and award our most active student. Last Spring, students loved the chance to get recognized, socialize, and battle each other for the most prestigious award: Soaring Scholar, which goes to the student who earns the most participation points

(by attending meetings, workshops, social events). We believe that this year's competition will be just as fierce!

In the Spring 2018 semester, we saw a leap in student participation in our program with our implementation of the 3-2-1 Program and with new workshops and social opportunities. Our 3-2-1 Program awarded students points based on their participation in our program. Students had to attend three advisor meetings, two workshops, and the Big Event to earn a required 300 points to be considered a participant in our program. So many of our students went above and beyond, with our Soaring Scholar earning 680 points, we were excited that students were getting excited about the program!

In the few weeks of our Fall semester, we have seen more engagement and excitement than ever before. We are privileged to be working in such a great program with such wonderful students. We look forward to another semester, another year, and evermore opportunities, and we hope you do, too.

