

Student Support Services — WaTEP

Fall 2008

Central Washington University

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TRiO Students Attend NW Leadership Conference



On the weekend of November 14th, 2008, 16 TRiO students, chaperoned by Washington TRiO Expansion Program (Wa-TEP) advisors Edward Esparza and Tom Spencer, traveled to the campus of Portland State University in Portland, Oregon, to attend the Northwest Student Leadership Conference (NWSLC). There were over 550 students in attendance from across the region as well as students from other states and countries.

According to its website, “the Northwest Student Leadership Conference (NWSLC), [currently in its 19th year], is the largest and most affordable conference of its kind. NWSLC

hosts over 500 students from across the United States at the Portland State University campus for three days of workshops, forums, speakers, and networking. NWSLC offers students over 100 workshops by both peers and



professionals that focus on issues affecting students in post-secondary education, such as increasing students’ electoral power, bringing underrepresented students to campus, and lowering tuition in tough economic times. NWSLC is also committed to direct action organizing and offers its attendees a wide variety of skill-based workshops, such as running a campaign, recruiting,

working with interns or volunteers, lobbying and media tactics. Each year, the conference features speakers who address issues such as activism, the student loan industry, and diversity. NWSLC also puts on forums on issues of interest to students.”

CWU TRiO students attending the conference: Perla Collado, Angela DelaBarrera, Johnny Edick, Jessica Fisette, Celine Francisco (driver), Jerika Gonzalez, LaJohnna Greenwood, Samantha Ingram-Legvold, Alora Knapp, Robert McLemore-West, Nicholas Mead, Said-Abdi Mohammed, Sara Nicholas, Nestor Roque, Timothy Sharkey, and Danny Zavala.



A Word from the Director...Dr. Neil McFarlane



"I just wanted to let you know that you have a gem of a tutor with Chris Parker!!! He is exceptional. Not only did he listen to me about how I learn best, [but] he constantly challenges my thinking processes and helps me to really digest the material..."—Patricia Wallace, TRiO student.

I must confess that I was delighted to read the above statement from one of our TRiO students who took time to let the Tutor Coordinator know how she benefited from having a tutor. It only takes a moment to write a word of encouragement or even to proffer a suggestion on how to better serve you the student.

Let me encourage you to write a note today to your advisor or make a suggestion to our staff on how we can better serve you. Is there something missing from your education that you would like to see implemented in our program? Well, here is your chance to respond. Let me hear from you. Write an email today to: mcfarlan@cwu.edu .

Financial Savvy

Linda Garcia

Become financially savvy. Work on applying these three Personal Financial Principles, from Jump-Start Coalition, to your financial life style. It is never too early to start thinking and planning for your future. What you do today will affect your financial future. I'll be back next quarter with some more hints to help you become financially literate.

January: Know where your money is going - Create an annual budget to identify expected income and expenses, including savings. This will serve as a guide to help you live within your income. Those living on financial aid can benefit greatly from a simple spending plan. If you need a budget record or spreadsheet see me in Hertz 208.

February: Your credit past is your credit future - Be aware that credit bureaus maintain credit reports, which record borrowers' histories of repaying loans. Negative information in credit reports can affect your ability to borrow at a later point in time. Check your credit report once a year. It is free. See me if you need help. Don't pay for a report. You might be surprised at what you find out there.

March: Money doubles by the "Rule of 72" - To determine how long it will take your money to double, divide the interest rate into 72. For example, an account earning 6% interest will double in twelve years (72 divided by 6 equals 12). If you don't have any money saved you can't reap the benefits of long term investment. When you graduate you will be ready to invest that money in more lucrative products.

Trip to Dry Falls (Coulee City) and Wild Horse Wind Farm



On November 1st, six TRiO students and three TRiO advisors spent the day traveling to visit the geological site of Dry Falls near Coulee City, WA and the nearby Wild Horse Wind Farm. Daisy Stevenson, Dulce Ortiz, Joel Ratliff, Chris Leeson, Alistair Patrick, and Jin Dong represented the CWU student body, while advisors Arthur Manjarrez, Tom Spencer, and Edward Esparza served as chaperons.

While at Dry Falls, the TRiO group learned about the geological history of the region. Although the falls are dry, it was, at one time, the largest waterfalls to have ever existed on earth. Just to put it into perspective, the falls drop 400 feet while Niagara Falls drop 165 feet. Dry Falls was created when a ice dam holding a

large amount of water collapsed in Montana around 10,000 years ago. The collapse led to a flood of water that reached as far as what is now Portland, OR.

The group also toured the Wild Horse Wind Farm located near Ellensburg. While there, they learned about the energy produced through both wind and solar energy. They received a personal tour of one of the 127 wind turbines and solar panels which together power 55,045 homes a year.

Thanks to the three TRiO advisors for driving the vans. Information taken from: gonorthwest.com and seattle.bizjournals.com/seattle/stories.



TRiO's Fall Social & BBQ



On October 23, the annual Fall TRiO social and barbeque was held in the courtyard of Hertz Hall. The social was a success with over 40 TRiO students and

staff attending. The event kicked off with a talk given by Julia Cain from the Center for Excellence and Leadership about the importance of voting in the upcoming November 4th election.

Students and staff enjoyed a delicious spread of hamburgers, hot dogs, and sides with a variety of sweets! Students also par-



ticipated in some fun "getting to know you" activities.

A special thanks to Monica Reece-Bruya for organizing the event!

Administrative Spotlight



Tracy Pellet is Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies here at CWU. Don McCorkindale and Brook Rutledge recently sat down with Tracy to get his opinion on issues relevant to the university, its students, and higher education in general.

DM: “The recent financial crisis will very likely affect a large percentage of the American people and many of its private and public institutions. Do you have any early indicators as to how the crisis will affect the ability of students to receive student loans?”

TP: “Traditionally, when there is an economic downturn, that actually bodes well... academically...What traditionally happens is that the enrollments tend to increase...the sad part to say is that people lose their jobs. They realize that ‘I better get more education.’ [From] our standpoint, [CWU] will actually be okay...I have not heard of anything, even from our financial aid folks here, that would lead us to believe that [the financial crisis] would negatively impact students...I am kind of optimistic on that.”

BR: Can you comment on the new wine major [here at CWU]? What kind of jobs are students finding?”

TP: “This is a new degree that was just approved by the HEC [Higher Education Coordinating] Board, for the state, this past spring. What this degree really focuses on is the business side of the wine industry. Interestingly enough, there is a variety of jobs that may be available in wineries and actually marketing those kinds of things. Let me put it this way; there are more wineries that have [recently] opened in the state of Washington than anywhere else in the country. This is not a viticulture degree in the sense of how to grow the grapes...but what this degree has done is basically allowed all these, I call them subsidiary kinds of positions, either within a winery or in the wine trade...It’s kind of a unique degree. It’s one of the few, actually, in the whole country. It’s definitely the only one in Washington.”

DM: “The TRiO program was created out of the civil rights movement in the 1960s. In your opinion, what role has the program played and what changes, if any, do you envision for the TRiO program here at CWU?”

TP: “...I think the key word there is access. Access and support are the two words that come to my mind. I think the [TRiO] program is a critical program. In my own mind, when I think about access and support, all students need that. Some students need it more than others, and we need to be able to provide that assistance...One of the great things you’ve seen is that program expand through WaTEP [Washington TRiO Expansion Program]The interesting thing about this program too is that it has been shown, even on this campus...to be successful. So, it’s a program that works. It’s a program that in my opinion is geared toward the students that need the most help [minority and first-generation students]...We want to continue to support that office and all of the TRiO programs that are offered here on campus [i.e. McNair].

BR: “Can you tell us a little bit about what your job as Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Studies entails?”

TP: “It’s kind of a varied job. I deal with a variety of things. Curriculum is a big part. As you talk about new programs and things of that nature...curriculum is an aspect of the job. Accreditation is an aspect of the job and working across campus to make sure and enhance our accreditation...Another part is the supervision of Support Services, several of the Support Services. TRiO is one. The Writing Center, the Math Center...Testing and Assessment [are others]. Faculty development is an area that is near and dear to my heart...I’m also engaged in a lot of off-campus, statewide kinds of committees and things of that nature that are focused on some of these same issues at the state level. So, that’s where a lot of my time is spent.

Spotlight on a TRiO Student and His Perspective on the Nov. 4th Election



Daniel Rios

Daniel Rios is a WaTEP junior majoring in Secondary Math Education. He is from Sunnyside, WA. Daniel originally attended the University of Washington as a freshman in pre-med but decided to follow his original dream of becoming a math teacher which led him to CWU. In addition to keeping a 3.3 GPA, Daniel is a math 100– 154 tutor for the Academic Achievement Program.

He also works part-time for campus custodial services. He will be doing his student teaching in 2011 and plans to continue his education by getting a graduate degree in math. TRiO congratulates Daniel on his academic success!

Daniel's perspective on the November 4th election is as follows: "An African American president in the white house is an amazing turn of events in U.S. history. However, I believe that this shouldn't have been the only reason so many people felt they had to vote in this election. No matter who runs for office, it is important to vote if you want your voice to be heard."

The First in the Family Club



Summer 2008 car wash in Yakima



Club Members

The First in the Family Club meets every Tuesday at 5:15. The club is currently selling raffle tickets (2 for a dollar) to raffle off a 10-speed (mountain bike). They are also approaching businesses asking for donations to bundle/package and raffle off to raise funds. If you have any questions about the club or would like to purchase raffle tickets, please contact club president Sarah Smith: smith-sarah@cwu.edu.

Fresh Faces Around the TRiO Office



Maria Rios: SSS/WaTEP Advisor

Maria was born in Mexico and moved to the United States at age 12. She notes that one of her biggest struggles was learning English and keeping up with the other students. With the help of her parents and teachers, she graduated from Kittitas High School in 2001.

With the help of Student Support Services and CAMP, Maria obtained her BA degree from CWU with a major in Spanish and a minor in Philosophy. She recently earned her Master's degree in Spanish and Portuguese Studies with a specialization in Colonial Spanish American Literature from the University of Washington (UW). While at the UW, Maria taught introductory Spanish classes and advised students about possible changes they could do to be more successful in her classes.

In Maria's own words: "My plan has always been to finish my studies and come back to Ellensburg and work at CWU. In this position, I believe I can serve as a role model for students who come from similar background as mine. For all those SSS/WaTep students who would like a little bit of academic advice or just someone to talk to, feel free to stop by and visit me at the SSS department in Hertz hall 206. I look forward to meeting you all!"



Brook Rutledge
Graduate SSS Advisor,

Brook Rutledge earned her B.A. in Psychology from Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA. She is now a second year graduate student in the Experimental Psychology program. Brook is focusing on physiological psychology. Before coming to TRiO, she worked at Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health. Currently, she is a lab assistant in the pigeon behavior lab and is on the CWU Student Services and Activities Fees Committee. Brook looks forward to working with TRiO students for the rest of the school year.



Teresa Rominger
Office Assistant WaTEP/TRiO

Teresa is our newest staff member. She will be assisting with Supplemental Instruction and will be one of the first people to greet you when you walk in to the office. Teresa was born and raised in Ellensburg. She graduated from Central with a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health Education. Teresa has worked at CWU for over nine years. She has one daughter, Amanda, who lives on Lake Tapps near Sumner. Teresa enjoys fishing, gardening, and scrapbooking.