

IOWA - MAEOPP E - ZINE

MARCH 2006

Success Story of the Month



Bernard Allassouma came to the United States of America on December 4th, 2001. When he came to the U.S. he left his 2 sisters, 5 brothers and recently widowed mother behind in West Africa. He lived for a short period of time with another African family until he got a job working at a meat packing factory. In August of 2002 he began taking classes at Western Iowa Tech Community College in Sioux City, IA while he was still working full time at the Ready Case Meats. However, in April of 2002 he was laid off from his job. It was time for him to concentrate more on his main goal; his main reason for coming to the U.S. was to get a good education. He said that in Africa the education system is not at the same level that it is at here, in the US. However, he was still struggling with English, he was in ESL classes, but was determined to succeed. When Bernard first heard about TRiO-SSS he got excited. To him the Trio program was a prayer come true, a miracle. There were people there ready to help him.

By the 2004-2005 school year Bernard was getting good grades in his classes, speaking English very well, and the vice president of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society on campus. He was also working as a volunteer teaching French to anyone who wanted to attend his French class which he held in an unoccupied room on campus.

Bernard missed his family. He would sometimes bring pictures of them into his TRiO Academic Coordinator's office. He missed several important family events and his mother died while he was in the U.S. Not being able to afford to return to Africa for her funeral was hard for him, but that did not stop him from staying focuses on his goal, his education.

Bernard graduated from WITCC in May of 2005. He now says "TRiO is my family" He is now studying to become a U.S. citizen and is hoping to become a citizen sometime next year. His long term goal is to become a pediatrician. He said his message for other Trio students is "Don't be ashamed to get a tutor" or ask for help

Bernard received assistance from WITCC TRiO-SSS with completing scholarship applications. He has won several scholarships including the Sister Loyola scholarship which is a scholarship that will pay for 100% of his tuition while he attends Briar Cliff University, in Sioux City, IA. Bernard says that the trio program helped him get his education and thus improved his life.

-Angela Young, SSS Director, Western Iowa Tech Community College

If you would like to share a story about one of your current or previous TRiO students please send the story to
IAMAEOPP@witcc.edu.

**IA-MAEOPP
2005-2006**

IA-MAEOPP CLOSE-UP on

Southwestern Community College

Student Support Services



Meet the Staff..



Joyce Schulte, earned the BSGS, M.Ed., and Ed.S. from the University of Missouri-Columbia. The last two degrees were dual majors in Educational Psychology and Counseling Psychology. Joyce worked a wide variety of counseling and educational settings before moving to Iowa in 1991 to become Director of Quakerdale in Manning. She is Director of the SSS program at SWCC.

Laurie Landsness, earned her BS degree from Northwest Missouri State University at Maryville, and her M.A. from University of Kansas, Lawrence. Previous experiences included working with Head Start and various other educational programs prior to SSS. Laurie works one-to-one with students, providing academic advisement and counseling, as well as creating and delivering workshops on a variety of Student-oriented topics.

Marsha Picket earned her B.S. degree from William Penn University after studies at DMACC and ISU. Much of Marsha previous experiences revolved around Office Assistance work with various programs. Marsha was a former TRiO member at DMACC-Urban campus. Marsha creates and supervises an active Tutoring Program.

Nicole Elder, earned her B.S. from Oklahoma Christian University. Previous work has included student sports team assistance and management. Athletics is a strong factor in her world. Nicole provides Transfer advisement and trips.

Coleen Hogue, graduated from our own SWCC, with her degree in computer programming. She was a 4.0 student here. Previous experiences are in various manufacturing companies. Coleen keeps our entire office flowing and database spiffy.

Highlights from Southwestern CC SSS Program...

Lunch 'N Learn

Each semester we invite a unique speaker to campus for a Lunch 'N' Learn. Our program pays for the cost for our participants to attend. We put the emphasis on our SSS participants meeting the speaker, having a free meal, and learning extra. Then we open it up to the rest of the student body, faculty and staff at their personal cost. Frank LaMere was our fall guest speaker; Juanita Limas was our spring semester speaker.

Honoring Banquet

Our Honoring Banquet occurs during the spring semester. "At the beginning of my working in the program we were hearing students describe family apathy toward academic success. So we started the Honoring Banquet, just to add emphasis to each participant and highlight each person's success. We make a big deal of academic achievement."

WHERE'S WALDO???

This year we have incorporated Where's Waldo, Willie Wonka and the Golden Ticket along with the Mardi Gras theme as our extra Recruiting efforts. We have wrapped the serious elements of recruiting with some fun and glitter. It has brought a different attitude to the campus, as well as to us as staff. Little Waldo characters were hidden in library areas, classrooms, and open areas for students to find and bring to our office. Staff then met each student and for those found eligible we offered space in our program. The Golden Tickets were sent to already-enrolled participants to bring a friend who was First Generation. Again, if the new student met SSS criteria, they were brought into the program. And Mardi Gras beads are given to select arts and science classes as entry to our Mardi Gras party. Part of the process is to interview each new student to see if they meet one of our criteria. We provide a variety of Workshops over the lunch hour for our participants. Time Management and Paper Writing are very popular.

How Can IA-MAEOPP Better Assist Our Program?

E. Joyce Schulte

I believe our Iowa MAEOPP colleagues must learn more and speak with a stronger voice on the political level. While some shy away from political conversations, we simply must understand it is Congress who gives and then threatens to take away. Our elected state officials are less than knowledgeable about TRiO because they do not have any connection to the money. Of course, we need to know and be friends with our Iowa Senate, House and Governor officials, but our power lies in electing people to the U. S. Congress and Senate who truly understand and will work for educational programs of all sorts, but especially TRiO. Iowa MAEOPP must strengthen us academically via guest speakers. Fluff and stories of how-much-of-a-struggle-I-had does not teach me how to better learn or learn even more. In fact, I could probably match most of those stories, maybe even do them one better. But that would not help! I need to hear, and I think others are saying they need to know more, on the serious topics of how we get brains to learn, getting the brains turned on, getting the students motivated. To truly succeed we have to get beyond the self-story level and move ourselves to the Let's-Do-It-Because-We-Know-More Level!

Educational Talent Search at Southwest Community College....

Educational Talent Search at Southwestern Community College is in its 4th year of its first grant cycle. We were awarded a 5 year grant in September of 2002. We have 4 full-time staff and serve 800 students in 11 school districts.

Meet The Educational Talent Search Staff...

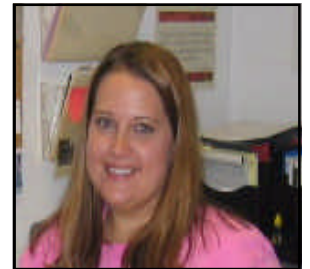
Erica Frey, Director

Erica has been the Director of the ETS program at SWCC since the grant was awarded in 2002. Previous to working in ETS, she was the Tutor Coordinator for the SSS program on the Southwestern Campus for 5 years. She graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 1995. She is married and has 3 children.



Karen Shay, Outreach Advisor

Karen became a part of the TRiO family in the spring of 2003. She grew up in Kentucky and graduated from the University of Dayton in Ohio. Karen attended law school in California before moving to Iowa where she is married to her husband, Cody.



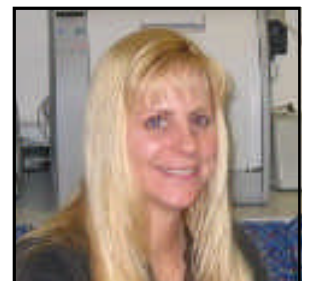
Kelly Lyddon, Outreach Advisor

Kelly started with ETS in the spring of 2005 as an Outreach Advisor. She graduated from Grandview College in Des Moines. She worked previously as a site coordinator for a 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant. Kelly is engaged to be married in June of 2006.



Janel Mclain, Administrative Assistant

Janel came to ETS in the spring of 2005. Her previous position was in a vision clinic. Janel is a graduate of Southwestern Community College. She is married and has 5 children.



DESCRIBE CURRENT AND ANNUAL ACTIVITIES WHICH YOU CONSIDER SUCCESSES

Dinner & a FAFSA: Every spring, ETS invites all of our Seniors and their parents to "Dinner & a FAFSA" night. With help from our financial aid office, we help students file their FAFSAs online. The SWCC Accounting Club helps parents with simple tax forms if they have not yet filed their taxes. We also feed them dinner.

ACT Test Prep & Mock Exam: Every January, ETS invites all of our high school participants to take part in our ACT test prep. We have a general test taking strategies session and then we have our "break out" sessions where students go to either Math, Science or English/Reading sessions taught by college instructors. If students take our ACT test prep one year, we encourage them to take the ACT Mock Exam. Students come in and experience the exact same conditions they would in the actual ACT exam. They take a timed ACT practice exam with a testing proctor in the room that the real ACT test is given. We even collect their tests and score them for them. This helps tremendously with students who experience test anxiety.

How do you see your program as unique?

We are a relatively young, close knit staff with a successful program.

WHAT CHANGES, IF ANY DO YOU ENVISION FOR YOUR PROGRAM

We would eventually like to get a peer mentoring program in place. We'd like former ETS students who are now attending college, to go back into their former schools with us to talk to the younger kids about how ETS helped them and what college is like.

What challenges does your program face?

Every year, we have to work hard at recruiting first generation/low income students. It is a challenge to get parents to sign their kids up for our program and to keep the parents involved.



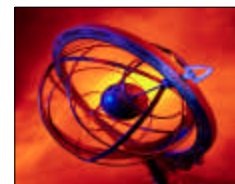
DISABILITIES & LEADERSHIP

By: Angela Young

There are two leadership conferences specifically designed for students with disabilities this summer. One of the conferences is for 10th - 12th graders and the other conference is for college students. The conferences are free. The College Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities will pay for the students lodging and food. They will also pay for interpreters and personal aides. Participants just need to find their own transportation, and there is some scholarship money available to help with transportation if needed.

The first conference is July 16- July 21, 2006. It is a five day conference for 10th-12th grade students with disabilities. During the conference students will learn about choosing a career, a variety of different resources and about assistive technology. They will have the opportunity to meet professionals with disabilities and to create a "Personal Leadership Plan".

The second conference is July 28- July 31, 2006. It is a four day leadership conference for college students with disabilities. This conference will help students transition into the workplace by providing information on resume writing, job searching, interviewing, reasonable accommodations and self-advocacy.



For more information about these conferences go to

<http://www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/pd/index> or call the Iowa Division of Persons with Disabilities at 1-888-219-0471.

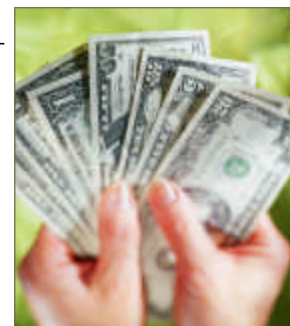
WHAT IS FAIR SHARE?

Maria Anderson, Iowa Fair Share Chair

Fair Share is the sharing of budgetary responsibility for the Council for Opportunity in Education to operate based on the relative number of TRIO projects in an area.

Fair Share revenue is collected in four ways:

- Regional membership dues
- Institutional membership dues
- Equality magazine subscriptions (allowable cost to grant programs)
- Personal Contributions



Why should you contribute?

By contributing to Fair Share (through personal contributions, subscriptions, or institutional memberships) you are essentially contributing to the success of TRIO. Only with your support, can the Council for Opportunity in Education effectively carry out the following:

- Consistently sending a message to Congress and to the public that TRIO works and is a good, solid federal investment.
- Consistently working to advance equal educational opportunity and promote diversity in America's colleges and universities.
- Consistently working hand-in-hand with the U.S. Department of Education to keep ahead of changing regulations and to effectively provide technical

assistance to all TRIO directors who are attempting to resolve funding and compliance issues.

Fair Share contribution forms are located at: www.coenet.us . When you're in the site click on Fair Share link at the top of the page and then click contribution form on the right.

DID YOU KNOW.....

2006 TRIO Income Guidelines Are Here...

2006 TRIO Low-Income Levels

Persons in Family or Household	48 Contiguous States and D.C.
1	\$14,700
2	\$19,800
3	\$24,900
4	\$30,000
5	\$35,100
6	\$40,200
7	\$45,300
8	\$50,400
For each additional person, add	\$5,100

MARK YOUR CALENDARS**M a r c h****March 28th – Policy Seminar, Washington, D.C.**

Please consider representing the Iowa TRIO Programs by attending

A p r i l**April 5-7 Iowa MAEOPP State Conference**

The conference will be in Ames, Iowa.

Registration materials and conference information are available on this website.

PRESIDENT BUSH PROPOSES MAJOR CUTS TO TRIO..**What Happens In****Washington, D.C.****Does Not Stay In****Washington, D.C.!!**

Please remember to assist the State Initiative Committee by submitting your project data for the IOWA FACT BOOK. We need to tell our success stories!

Article of Interest....

- When students enrolled was more important than where they went to college. Students who had not matriculated by the January after their high-school graduation saw their chances of earning a degree plummet.
- The report recommends that colleges expand the use of summer terms. More than 60 percent of students in the survey enrolled in summer classes, having "shattered the observance of the traditional academic calendar." Earning more than four credits during summer terms correlated positively to degree completion, particularly for black students.
- Earning some college credits while still in high school is also positively associated with degree completion. "If traditional-age students entered college or community college with a minimum of six credits of 'real stuff,' not fluff, their adaptation to the critical first-year will not be short-circuited," the report says.

To read this article in it's entirety, visit:

<http://chronicle.com/daily/2006/02/2006021501n.htm>

IA-MAEOPP NEWS

To submit information for publishig or to contact the editors of this monthly e-zine, please send us an email!

Phone: (712) 274-8733 x 1491

Fax: (712) 274-6428

E-mail: iamaeoppnews@witcc.edu

Tawnya Beermann, Co-Chair

Athena Clayborne, Co-Chair

Alan McGaffin, Committee Member

Angela Young, Committee Member