This fall, TRIO Student Support Services took 28 of its students to Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry for an all-day trip. Highlights included a tour inside a real WWII German submarine and watching an Omnimax film about the migration of Monarch butterflies.

“I loved the whole trip. SSS really takes care of us, while giving us the level of independence we need. This was one of my favorite college experiences so far,” commented Saleena Hill.

Many of the students enjoyed the opportunity to get to know other students in the TRIO Student Support Services program. Rachel Edwards said, “Loved the group we went with. Had a great time!” and Kristen Costello echoed that sentiment: “I loved being able to meet new people and I had a great experience.”

When asked what attraction they liked the best, students listed the vortex, mirror rooms, submarine, butterfly exhibit, ecofriendly technology room, and the anatomy and physiology exhibit called “You: The Experience.”

Freshman Cherry Thu said, “There was something for everyone—kids and adults. The flight simulator was so much fun! We did a 360 and were upside down for a long time.”

Senior Tiffany Lackey summed it up best by saying, “I definitely think we should do it again or something like it. It was a great opportunity to connect with other students and my advisor in a non-school setting.” Saleena Hill explained that it was like “a vacation and a learning experience!”
TRIO Matches New Students with Mentors

Students new to TRIO Student Support Services this fall were offered an upperclassman to serve as their mentor. This provided a chance for freshmen and transfer students to ask another student how they balance work and school, what on-campus activities are fun, and anything else that IPFW students need to know. Mentors meet in-person or communicate through texts and e-mail to provide support as new students transition to IPFW. In December, the mentors planned a mentor/mentee mixer with teambuilding activities such as the telephone Pictionary game pictured above.

This year’s TRIO SSS mentors are Gladys Calderon, Britten Friar, Heather Groves, Niki Koch, Tiffany Lackey, Nathan Seelye, and Abby Wiegand.

TRIO Workshops Offer Tips

All TRIO SSS students are invited to the following workshops once a month from noon to 1 p.m. in Balthaser Conference room, LIBRARY 275:

- Jan. 21st: Study Abroad—You Can Afford to Go!
- Feb. 23rd: Having Fun Outside of Class—Student Life
- March 23rd: Résumés: Starting & Updating
- April 27th: Finals Stress Relief

Join TRIO for the Big Event!

Saturday, April 11, 2015, IPFW students and staff will volunteer at an agency in our community as a part of IPFW’s annual Big Event Day of Service. If you’d like to be a part of the TRIO SSS Big Event group this year, sign-up in the TRIO office.

Get Connected

Want to receive updates on jobs, internship opportunities, and reminders about TRIO SSS and IPFW events? Get connected to TRIO SSS on Facebook or Twitter.

facebook.com/ipfwtrioss
Twitter: @ipfwtrioss

Join TRIO for Coffee, Tea & a Study Break

What’s a good class to take as an elective?

How can I afford to study abroad?

These are some of the topics that came up at TRIO’s Coffee Hour this fall. Almost 30 different students stopped by during the semester and we had a regular group of about 3-7 students.

Stop by the ETCS building’s lobby on Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:45 for free refreshments, to get to know other TRIO students, and/or to ask your TRIO advisor a question.
Gaby Romo Balances Pre-Med & Soccer

What is your major?
Biology, pre-med. My goal is to become a family physician.

I know you play forward for the IPFW women’s soccer team. How do you balance soccer’s demanding schedule with studying for classes? Instead of watching Modern Family or a game on TV, I do homework. I have to remind myself why I’m in college, which is to get an education while playing soccer, my passion. I plan my week out ahead of time. My schedule is based on soccer and the open spots are filled with my classes, then assignments. Any free time, which is a miracle, I treat myself by watching TV shows, watching a soccer game or by reading articles.

What challenges did you face growing up?
When I started kindergarten, I didn’t know English. My parents weren’t involved in my education, either. Another challenge was facing the cultural idea that women cannot become successful, independent people. Fortunately, my mother and teachers encouraged me to work hard so I would not have to rely on a man.

Why did you sign up for TRIO Student Support Services?
I am a first-generation college student and I needed someone to guide me through this new experience.

How has TRIO SSS supported you?
In times of stress due to money, grades and exams, they helped work out a plan to fix my problems.

How do you feel about TRIO SSS?
TRIO is like a family. They have your back no matter what and will guide you step-by-step toward success.

What advice would you offer to new IPFW students?
Identify your priorities, manage your time and know which healthy activities help you relieve stress.

What would you say to someone considering applying to TRIO SSS?
Don’t hesitate—do it! The best part is that they sincerely care about you. You’re their top priority!

Save the Date for TRIO Celebration!

Mark your calendars for the TRIO SSS Spring Celebration Monday, April 13th at noon in the Walb Classic Ballroom. All TRIO SSS students are invited! More details to come soon!
Contact Us

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TRIO Peer Mentors: Heather Groves, Nathan Seelye, Abby Wiegand, Gladys Calderon, Britten Friar, Tiffany Lackey & Shekaira Jefferson

Have a Friend in Need of TRIO SSS?

Eligibility requirements:
- Full-time student at IPFW seeking 1st bachelor's degree
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Additionally, students must meet one or more of the following qualifications:
  > Are first-generation college (parents do not have a bachelor's degree)
  > Meet federal income guidelines
  > Have documented disability with SSD office

Completed applications should be returned to the TRIO SSS office. After completing the application, potential students will be interviewed by program staff. Acceptance is based on availability and need for program services. Have more questions? Contact us!

TRIO SSS Benefits:
- Laptop computer loans
- Scientific/graphing calculator loans
- Cultural events
- One-on-one support
- Financial literacy

Students who meet eligibility requirements, should request an application from our office or visit our website at www.ipfw.edu/TRIO-sss.