The weather was sunny and in the 70s for TRIO SSS’s fall break trip to Columbus, Ohio.

Students started the day visiting Kelton House, a stop along the Underground Railroad where reenactors tried to rally support for an anti-slavery petition. Mrs. Kelton explained that if they were caught hiding slaves, they would lose all of their possessions, go to jail and have their children taken away. TRIO sophomore, Scott Gorrell, said the true story of two sisters who escaped from the South then were forced to separate when one was too sick to leave Kelton House “brought into perspective the atrocities of slavery.”

After stepping back in time, the students visited the Columbus Zoo, where they learned how the animal hospital cares for sick and injured animals and how the zoo rehabilitates manatees. Freshman Louie Sorn, who had never been to a zoo, said, “My favorite part was the polar bears. I didn’t know you could see them anywhere but in the Arctic!”

Over 40 TRIO SSS students went to the Columbus Zoo over Fall Break.
When Tiffany Lackey joined TRIO SSS, she did so because her friend was in TRIO. Little did she know how involved she would become in the program over the next four years. Now a senior, Tiffany works as a mentor to incoming TRIO freshmen and as a student worker for the TRIO office. She helped plan the TRIO fall break trip to Columbus, Ohio and the TRIO Club trip to Puerto Rico. The idea for TRIO Study Tables (which meet every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Walb 118) was Tiffany’s. The TRIO SSS staff can also thank her and student worker, Kristin Costello, for transforming the office into the mad scientist’s lab which won IPFW’s Halloween decorating contest.

What has been your favorite part of college?

My favorite part of college has also been my least favorite part: getting out of my comfort zone. It’s terrifying when you’re shy and don’t know many people, but it’s really something I needed to learn how to do.

What challenges did you face growing up?

I was a really quiet kid growing up and was picked on quite a lot.

What challenges have you faced at IPFW?

Depression is the main one. It has impacted every aspect of my life from a young age, and only got worse when I came to IPFW. When I got here, I only knew one person and she made other friends fast. I felt alone, worthless, and like I didn’t belong here. I contemplated dropping out, reverted back to harmful habits, and secluded myself as often as I could. My best friend kept bugging me about joining TRIO, and I can honestly say that because of her and TRIO, I am graduating and have a much better hold on my depression than I did coming in to college.

How has TRIO SSS supported you?

TRIO has supported me in times where I could turn to no one else. When I’m on top of my game, they’re all there celebrating with me and cheering me on; when my life is in such a messy state that I can’t even handle getting breakfast, they’re there reminding me that there are people willing to help take some of the pressure off. TRIO has supported me not only academically, but personally. They do so much more than they need to, and I am so grateful.

What advice would you offer new IPFW students?

Do not feel bad about seeking help of any kind—whether it be with CASA because you’ve got a particularly hard class, or if you need someone to talk to about personal things. Seeking help is not a sign of weakness.

What are your plans for after graduation?

I plan on applying to grad school here at IPFW and getting my master’s in school counseling.
Become a Published Author with TRIO’s Writing Circle

TRIO SSS is going to publish a book filled with essays about its students’ challenges and triumphs. We will provide writing prompts and walk you through the entire process. All TRIO students are invited to participate. Come to the writing circle meeting on Monday, February 1st, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. in Walb Union G21 to learn more!

TRIO Coffee Hour is moving to Kettler 128 Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Have You Ever Wanted to Travel?

You can earn college credits and experience another culture by studying abroad. Your freshman and sophomore years are the perfect times to start making plans. Talk to your TRIO advisor for more information.

LEARN LIFE SKILLS AT TRIO WORKSHOPS

Want to know more about buying a car, applying for scholarships or getting a job? Come to TRIO Workshops this spring:

- **How to write Scholarship Essays**
  Monday, February 8th 12:00-1:00
  WALB UNION 114

- **Buying a Car & ID Theft**
  Wednesday, February 24th 12:00-1:00
  WALB UNION 222

- **Résumés, internships & getting a job**
  Monday, March 21st 12:00-1:00
  WALB UNION 114

- **Finals Stress Relief**
  Monday, April 11th 12:00-1:00
  WALB UNION 114

TRIO Club members will head to Puerto Rico in the spring
TRIO Staff:

Shubitha Kever,
Program Director
Email: kevers@ipfw.edu
Office: (260)481-6881
Cell/Text: (260) 403-4190

Buck Jordan,
Academic Coordinator
Email:jordanj@ipfw.edu
Office: (260) 481-0221
Cell/Text: (260) 402-5425

Karen Lenfestey,
Academic Coordinator
Email: lenfks01@ipfw.edu
Office (260) 481-0223
Cell/Text: (260) 452-9648

Tiffany Lackey,
Office Assistant

Kristin Costello,
Student Worker
Office: (260) 481-0220
Fax: (260) 481-0226
www.ipfw.edu/TRIO-sss

TRIO SSS Students Develop Leadership

Every year TRIO SSS students with leadership potential are invited to participate in TRIO Leaders. Students meet once a month to do activities that uncover their hidden talents and teach them how to be stronger leaders. Based upon The Student Leadership Challenge book by James Kouzes and Barry Posner, the topics include modeling the way, inspiring a shared vision, challenging the process, enabling others to act and encouraging the heart.

This year’s participants are Karla Silva, Breanna Putt, Juan Becerra, Emily Eley, Tiffany Lackey, Miranda Hall, Cherry Thu, Jessica Camarena and Amber Davenport. If you’re interested in TRIO Leaders, contact your TRIO academic coordinator.

Everyone’s Invited to the TRIO Awards Banquet

Tuesday, April 12th
12:00-1:00 p.m.
Walb Classic Ballroom
R.S.V.P. to trioss@ipfw.edu or 481-0220