The Blueprint for a Lifetime of Success

Disability Support Services

The TRIO Disability Support Services (DSS) program goal is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of students with learning, physical and psychological disabilities. Services provided by DSS include academic advising, personal counseling, individualized tutoring, career exploration and referral, study/life skills improvement workshops, grant aid and scholarship opportunities, computer technology lab usage, financial aid/economic literacy instruction, financial aid searches, graduate school selection and information, course selection and degree planning assistance, book/calculator/computer loan program (desktop and laptop), and campus and community involvement opportunities.

The DSS program at WSU has been funded by the U. S. Department of Education since September 1, 2001.

DSS is the first TRIO program specifically for students with disabilities in the state of Kansas, one of only 25 across the nation. Staff has contacted more than 4,500 faculty, staff, students and community members to explain the program’s goals and services, and educating constituents regarding what needs to be done to effectively assist students with disabilities.

DSS Staff provided personal, academic, financial aid, financial/economic literacy, scholarship searches, career options and graduate school selection advising. Eleven tutors assisted students in lower level undergraduate courses throughout the grant year.

Program students utilized the DSS/Office of Disability Services adaptive computer lab equipped with 10 stations. The study skills videotape library, including 40 instructional videos, was made available for student checkout.

The 12th annual TRIO DSS luncheon was held in May recognizing program students, tutors, graduates, faculty, staff, scholarship recipients, and a memorial plaque was presented in honor of its recently deceased DSS program Assistant Director, Mr. Phillip A. Bowers.

2012-2013 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 23 textbooks were added to the textbook lending library
- Individualized study skills instruction was made available to students
- The writing assistant assisted students with outlines and written papers
- Nine desktop and nine laptop computers were available for student checkout
- 115 students were served, 23 students graduated with a baccalaureate degree from WSU, 19 were placed on the Dean’s Honor Roll, and 18 received Academic Commendation
- 14 study/life skills and financial literacy workshops were provided and attended by students (3 of which were made available online)
- The DSS program awarded $26,200 in grant aid and EOF scholarships to program students

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