

TRiO SSS Newsletter Fall 2012



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Hello new and returning SSS Students! Welcome to the Fall 2012 semester!

As all of you already know, participation in SSS requires that you make at least two contacts per semester to be in good standing with the program. Most of you can fulfill this requirement by coming in to see us for advising, counseling or tutoring. But did you know that attending one of our cultural enrichment activities can also count as a “contact”?!

If you speak with anyone who has been on one of our cultural events, they will tell you that attending these activities is a terrific way to remove yourself from the stress of school and just have fun with friends for a few hours. But are these events JUST about having fun? Actually, -- no. These activities are also about creating a cooperative and unified population within the SSS program as well as developing a greater appreciation of others who may not be like us. We also find it is a wonderful way to honor one of CSUSM's core values: building an academic community dedicated to the value of inclusiveness (individual and cultural diversity, and multiple perspectives.)

The definition of culture is “a group or community with which we share common experiences that shape the way we understand the world.” Every semester, the SSS staff searches for a special event which will provide a distinct “cultural awareness” to our students. That being said, you may still be wondering why we believe cultural awareness is so important. Simply put: learning about others will not only enrich our own lives but it will often help us to “step into another person's shoes”. By learning about people outside our own culture and community, we develop a greater understanding and appreciation of behaviors, traditions, styles and values that do not match our own. We can also look at ourselves and see how our own cultural beliefs and attitudes may be perceived by others.

We have also found these activities have the added benefit of directly connecting the SSS community of learners to one another! More often than not, students have found study partners for classes while chatting on the bus ride or sharing some laughs and conversation over dinner! Deep friendships have often been the result of opening up and taking the time to connect, learn and celebrate the customs that come from a variety of cultures.

In the past we have explored the expression of a wide range of culture through museum exhibitions, dance renditions, theater productions, and live musical performances – just to name a few. We have touched on the meaning of identity

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through gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, body image, and socioeconomic status. In addition, we have been fortunate to learn about some nationalities found in Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe and South America. In the future, we look forward to discovering events that address various cultures found in North America, Australia, Antarctica, and the Pacific Islands. Furthermore, because we know that so much about culture is also expressed through food, we have enjoyed sampling cuisines from Argentina, Thailand, India, Japan, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Greece, Italy, a traditional American Jewish deli.....and more. Our list could go on and on!

Wishing you lots of good experiences here at CSUSM this semester. Everyone in SSS is looking forward to another year of learning and exciting new possibilities with all of you! Hope to see you soon – whether it is in the Center or on a future cultural enrichment activity!

Heather Northway

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2011-2012 AWARD WINNERS

TRiO SSS Senior Excellence Award Winner



Aurora Ramirez

**TRiO SSS honored
Aurora Ramirez with their
2012 Senior Excellence
Award Winner**

Aurora joined the TRiO SSS program as a transfer student in 2010. In May 2012 she graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal and Justice Studies. Aurora plans to go to Law School and eventually become a public defender.

Congratulations Aurora !

TRiO SSS Faculty Award Winner



Silverio Haro

**TRiO SSS recognized
Silverio Haro as their
2012 Faculty Advocate
Award Winner**

Mr. Haro is an Academic Advisor for Communication, History and Mass Media, in the Undergraduate Advising Services. He has always been a staunch supporter of the TRiO SSS students. He has also been the GEL Learning Community Instructor for the last several years.

Congratulations Mr. Haro!

SPRING CULTURAL EVENT 2012



Students and staff experience the Spanish cuisine through sampling a variety of authentic Spanish Tapas at the

***Tapas Picasso
Spanish
Restaurant***

in Hillcrest San Diego



After the sumptuous meal the group attended a show with a Spanish flavor, presented by:

***Camarada
“it’s so very TANGO...”
Dance
Performance***

at
St. Paul’s Cathedral, San Diego

2012 SUMMER TRANSITIONAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM



2012 STEP PARTICIPANTS

Elizabeth Cruz

Sho Freeman

Hector Galvez

Blanca Gonzalez

Sidnie Jackson

Elizabeth Lopez Diaz

Miriam Madrigal

Jorge Marquez

Christian Mendoza

Rosa Quintana

Rosalba Resendiz

Michelle Sandoval

The Summer Transitional Enhancement Program (STEP) is designed to bring the TRiO SSS first year students together for a week of information sessions and fun activities. The program provides an opportunity for the student participants to learn more about the TRiO SSS services; the campus community, how to become involved in the various campus groups, and to interact with each other.

The activities included team building exercises, Disc golf and a trip to the Titanic Artifacts exhibition at the San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park. At the Titanic exhibition the students learned how the first, second and third class passengers were treated differently in terms of the amenities, the artifacts that survived and the stories behind them, the construction of the ship, the tragic story of how it sank and the names of the passengers who either survived or were lost when the ship went down.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO WERE ON THE DEAN'S LIST WITH A GPA OF 3.5 (OR HIGHER) IN THE SPRING SEMESTER

**Edgar Ayala
Constance Bronder
Claudia Caywood
Curtis Chapman
Anthony Coleman
Cynthia Cordova
Noelle Cox
Amber Danks
Pedro Diaz
Amira El-Khaouli**

**Angela Farfan
Aimee Fischer
Hoshang Hafizi
Nicole Henson
Jasmine Horton
Jenna Jauregui
Rachel McNamee
Alejandro Montes
Rosa Ortiz**

**Karen Padilla
Yanely Pinedo
Brenda Ramos
Dmitri Ranieri
Yesenia Rayo
Esmeralda Reyes
Karl Rivera
Cynthia Sandoval
Victor Sandoval**

**Gary Simmons
Diana Sixto
Joselene Soto
Amy Stewart
Marcos Vasquez
Samantha Webb
Joel Williams
Kristen Yaldo**

THE FOLLOWING PART-TIME STUDENTS ALSO EARNED A 3.5 GPA (OR HIGHER)

**Bianca Bautista
Grace Caro
Alethia Dunn
Delilah Garcia
Enriqueta Nunez**

**Benito Gonzalez
Maria Hernandez
Hassan Imani
Chris Mohler**

**Jazmin Ponce
Aurora Ramirez
Veronica Sanchez
Dulce Santana**

**Judith Silva
Sabrina Tan
Vanessa Zambrano
Olivia Zema**

WELCOME NEW SSS STUDENTS

**Marisol Aguilar
Ali Alawadi
Brizlet Angon
Kimberly Avila
Idalia Barragan
Kawa Barzangi
Benitez Dulce
Carlos Betancourt
Brandy Brown
Brittany Brown
Gage Chesser
Michelle Cosio
Andrew Craig**

**Elizabeth Cruz
Yesenia Esquivel
Sho Freeman
Hector M. Galvez
Juan Galvez
Giovanni Garcia
Patricia Garcia
Blanca Gonzalez
Jose Heredia
Jesus Hernandez
Veronica Herrera
Sidnie Jackson**

**Elizabeth Lopez
Miriam Madrigal
Crystal Madriles
Jorge Marquez
Alex Martinez
Patricia Martinez
Christian Mendoza
Alain Meyer
Jose Nunez
Monica Paniagua
Santos Penaflo
Marienel Jesica Pili**

**Rosa Quintana
Jalena Raiano
Edward Ratkoczy
Rosalba Resendiz
Rosalinda Rocha
Cristina Rodriguez
Michelle Sandoval
Adam Schmaltz
Amanda Spicer
Skyes Delone
Yen Tran
Miriam Zaldana**

TRiO SSS GRADUATION CEREMONY

The TRiO SSS Program held its Graduation Ceremony at McMahan House on May 16, 2012 . Families and friends gathered to honor, and share the success of the graduates.

Congratulations To...

Heidi Balvaneda
Marisol Balverdes
Breanne Campos
Edilberto Canseco
Carolina Carrillo
Adriana Castillo
Selenne Cazarez
Anthony Coleman
Viviana Correa
Auriel Dice

Alethia Dunn
Yvette Esquivel
Yazmin Gonzalez
Lency Hernandez
Maria Hernandez
Ethan Hughes
Miguel Jacobo
Keith Lewis
Liliana Martinez
Nastassja McDonald

Joss Newman
Leticia Ortiz
Jaime Pantoja
Kim Pham
Mayra Pozos
Aurora Ramirez
Gerardo Ramirez
Jasmin Rivera
Karl Rivera
Christina Rodriguez

Judith Silva
James Simpson
Chelsie Stewart
Fethawi Tekleab
Ngan Tran
Kathylee Valdez
Marcos Vasquez
Joel Williams
Vanessa Zambrano
Dalia Zepeda



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TRiO VOLUNTEER DAY

Beaumont Elementary School, Vista



This year we were invited to visit Beaumont Elementary School in Vista and give a presentation to the 4th and 5th grade students focusing on what it means to be a college student. The 4th grade class teacher Hillary Nolan, wanted the Beaumont students to know that despite the misconceptions held by some people, it is possible to go to college.

The TRiO SSS students shared their stories about how they had overcome the difficulties they faced to make it to college. The Beaumont students were so excited, and asked many questions. Below are some of the comments from their ‘thank you’ letters.

“ I think you inspired our whole class to go to college.”

“ It was like you were the superstars everyone wanted to be.”

“ Thank you for eating with us at the lunch tables and playing with us at recess.”

“Everyone was astonished by how much we learned and all the fun we had ”

“I was so excited that you guys got to come over to my school.”

“ I learned that it is possible to go to college when you are poor.”

“ I wasn’t sure if I wanted to go to college but now I do.”

“Thanks for inspiring us to go to college.”

“I am for sure going to college.”

“I hope you guys come again.”

FALL 2012 WALK-IN HOURS

WALK-IN HOURS

Joe LeDesma	Tuesday	1:00PM —3:00PM
Jason Tan	Wednesday	9:00AM—12:00PM
Heather Northway	Thursday	9:00AM—12:00PM

Please Note

- Walk-in counseling/advising is on a first come, first serve basis.
- Your walk-in time with the counselor / advisor will be limited to fifteen minutes.

If you would like to see a counselor / advisor for a longer time you will need to make an appointment.

TRiO SSS PROGRAM STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

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