



### Kainen Bell

TRIO SSS

My name is Kainen Bell and I grew up in Tacoma, Washington and have been supported by TRIO programs from middle school to college. My mother raised me and my sister by herself and did not have much time to explain the college process or take me to career fairs. However, TRIO filled that gap for me and provided hope and resources to apply to college. I later was accepted to the UW and received the Costco Diversity Scholarship which made affording college a reality. Within the first days of school, UW TRIO Student Support Services opened their arms and guided me through the campus. With their support I achieved my goals of being the first person in my family to go abroad, traveling to Brazil twice, and Germany.

I also became heavily involved on-campus and served in as many capacities as I could including being a resident advisor, student ambassador for the Foster School of Business and Office of Minority Affairs, member of the student government board of directors, and mentor for the Foster School Young Executives of Color program. While working in these leadership activities TRIO staff helped me map out my goal of being the first person in over 10 years at the UW to graduate with double degrees in the School of Business (information systems) and School of Social Work. Thanks to their support and many others, I was able to successfully complete this goal. During my senior year I was honored as one of the recipients of the Husky 100 recognition, which selects 100 students from all 3 UW campuses who made the most of the UW experience.

Along the way I also became a student with the Ronald E. McNair program because I wanted to be the first person in my family to attend graduate school, and thanks to their resources and training, I am currently finishing my Masters in Social Work degree at Columbia University. As far as next steps, I was recently named a semi-finalist for the Fulbright program, and if I receive the award, I will have the opportunity to return to Brazil and conduct research on non-profits. I would like to thank the TRIO program, staff, and its supporters because I am 100% confident that I would not be standing where I am today if it were not for them.



## Student Success Services

Through a grant competition, funds are awarded to institutions of higher education to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their postsecondary education. Student Support Services (SSS) projects also may provide grant aid to current SSS participants who are receiving Federal Pell Grants (# 84.063). The goal of SSS is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants.

All SSS projects must provide: academic tutoring, which may include instruction in reading, writing, study skills, mathematics, science, and other subjects; advice and assistance in postsecondary course selection, assist student with information on both the full range of student financial aid programs, benefits and resources for locating public and private scholarships; and assistance in completing financial aid applications. Education or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy and assist students in applying for admission to graduate and professional programs; and assist students enrolled in two-year institutions and applying for admission to, and obtaining financial assistance for enrollment in four-year programs. The SSS projects may also provide individualized counseling for personal, career, and academic information, activities, and instruction designed to acquaint students with career options; exposure to cultural events and academic programs not usually available; mentoring programs, securing temporary housing during breaks for students who are homeless youths and students who are in foster care or are aging out of the foster care system.

# TRIO