

**Cora Cornell**

TRIO Student Support Services

I decided to pursue a college education at the age of 64. This was a big adjustment for me, and upon beginning my first quarter at LCC, a classmate told me about the TRIO Student Support Services program to help students navigate the college experience, and how it helped them. I had no idea how my decision to pursue a degree would affect my life. I felt like a duck out of water. The TRIO program provided the guidance and positive encouragement I needed to be a successful student.

I applied to the program and selected an academic advisor who was extremely helpful by providing me with excellent academic and career direction. I was encouraged to utilize all the facilities and programs that would contribute to my success, such as tutoring, counseling, and study skills help.

The TRIO program has assisted in my transfer degree planning, assisted in completing my financial aid application and providing guidance while applying for scholarships. The TRIO program has provided trip opportunities to explore four-year universities, cultural activities, and events to encourage a balanced academic life.

After completing my AA through Lower Columbia College in Longview, Washington, I plan to transfer to a four year University within the state to complete a Bachelor's degree in Psychology.

I believe that the TRIO program has been essential to the success I am achieving in my current academic pursuits and my future ones as well.



## 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