



## Tasha Dotson

TRIO SSS

My name is Tasha Dotson and I am a TRiO graduate from Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen, WA. Dealing with moving so much and being a new kid, I never got used to being the new kid. Moving all the time in the middle of school is hard on a kid. Others always make fun or judge you on how you look and what you wear. Fifth grade was the first year I attended one school the entire year. We moved so much that I was held back in third grade due to transferring between four different schools eight times. We didn't move because my family was military but because we were never financially stable. I attended college right after high school and with the help of Trio I graduated after three years with an AADT and an AAS Pre-Vet.

After being held back in grade school, math became easier for me. I was referred to the Learning Center at Grays Harbor College and worked there as a math tutor for two years. Being a math tutor and an Instructional Technician in TRiO at GHC meant that I was going to help students have a better understanding of how to do math. It makes me happy to hear from students that they did better on a test than they thought they could. With TRiO's help I was accepted to a private university. I received help to pay for almost all of my education through scholarships. With TRiO's help I have landed an amazing opportunity to work for the Navy at the Bremerton Shipyard as a Physical Science Technician. With this new job I am able to go back to Pacific Lutheran University Spring 2017 to finish my bachelors in math with a minor in biology and chemistry and graduate fall 2018.

<http://www.ghc.edu/trio>



## 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

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