

**Eric Kiger**

TRIO SSS

The TRIO program provided the support and encouragement I needed to not only earn my bachelor's degree, but to change my career trajectory in the process, thus finding my true passion.

As a first generation college student I lacked the knowledge necessary to succeed in a higher education setting. When I attempted to attend college the first time as a traditional age student I had no guidance, this caused me to struggle with balancing supporting myself by working full time while taking classes at a community college on a part time basis. This experience was so difficult it caused me to give up on my college dreams for over ten years before I enrolled at The Evergreen State College.

TRIO support classes at Evergreen exposed me to first generation professionals who had become successful, and provided resources to help me achieve that same success. The TRIO Class taught by Stacia Pomerenk my senior year supported student's short and long range planning for their academic steps post-graduation. The research in this class helped me discover that my passion lies in public service; I am now working as an Academic Advisor and pursuing a Master's in Public Administration.

 <http://evergreen.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.

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