



Sergio Madrid

TRIO SSS

As a first generation scholar, I came to this country not knowing a word of English, which made it more difficult for me especially when I began my academic journey at CC. Of course I am aware I'm not the only one with this challenge. TRIO-SSS, as the support system that it is, helped me find a purpose in my academic career. The services the program provides such as academic advising, tutoring, and exposure to cultural experiences made a substantial impact on my success as a college student. For instance, when I first began at CC I knew I wanted to become more educated, but I was unsure as to what direction I wanted to pursue academically.

For the first year, I was unsure on what I wanted to do, I was taking classes that seemed interesting, but in reality didn't help me move forward. It was then when a friend suggested me to join TRIO-SSS and it was with the help of my advisor, Liisa Preslan, that my academic career began to take shape. Graduating from CC with an Associate in Arts I transferred to CWU where I went on to earn my degree in Philosophy and was accepted in another TRIO program called McNair scholars program (a program designed to prepare students for graduate school). I also had the privilege of being an intern at our state legislature's Senate. Now I'm on to be a future Peace Corps volunteer. All of these achievements were made possible through my determination to become more educated, TRIO-SSS program had a substantial impact on my success.

 <http://www.centralia.edu/students/trio/SSS/>

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As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by 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.

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