



**Adam Mager**

TRIO SSS

I always aspired to pursue higher education but after high school, I did not have the financial means to do so and instead I joined the Navy. Ten days after my military service, I started college as a first-generation student. The adjustment to civilian/student life was challenging. Fortunately, I was introduced to the TRIO Student Support Services Program at Skagit Valley College. TRIO played a crucial role in my transition to student life and postsecondary education.

When I struggled with classes, TRIO coordinated tutoring for me. When I sought guidance, they provided advice and support. They were relentlessly there with me every step of the way. The invaluable information and guidance I was provided helped me to understand my educational opportunities and pursue my academic goals.

The TRIO counselors' genuine care for my success provided me the tools and motivation to overcome adversity and ultimately achieve a Student Achievement Award and Baccalaureate degree. Since graduation, I have worked as a Logistics Specialist at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System but recently moved to the DC area and began working at the Pentagon as a visual information specialist.

 <https://www.skagit.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