



### Oswaldo Camarena

TRIO SSS

Pursuing a higher education has been the best decision I have ever made. During my time at the University of Washington I have progressed as an intellectual, employee, and community member. I stand proud to be on track to graduate in 2017 with a degree in Political Economy and a Minor in Spanish. Before my family immigrated to Vancouver, Washington in 2001, we lived in a small town in the state of Jalisco, MEX.

My parents sacrificed all they ever knew to give my three siblings and I a better opportunity. My parents only achieved a 6th grade education. Furthermore, only one of my siblings completed high school. I am humbled for being the first in the family to attend a 4-year institution. At the UW, the TRIO program has helped mitigate the challenges students like me face every day. In my experience, the TRIO program has provided me with the tools necessary to stay on track and succeed.

 <https://depts.washington.edu/omads/trio-sss/>



## 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