

Welcome to our 1st Edition of the SSS News!

Gannon University is home to TRIO Student Support Services (SSS), a federally funded program dedicated to empowering students from underrepresented groups to persist, graduate, and attain life-long success.

In partnership with various departments within the campus community, SSS leverages opportunities to enhance career development, academic success, personal development, and community engagement. SSS focuses on helping students make connections to resources both on and off campus to improve their Gannon student experience and overall success in life.



2022 was a stellar year for Gannon TRIO SSS! The program hosted several meaningful workshops and enriching cultural events, welcomed new TRIO Family members, and said good-bye to colleagues and graduates who set the foundation for this amazing program. SSS continues to gain momentum and provide Gannon students with opportunities to connect, grow, and succeed! 2023 is off to a great start! #TRIO Works!

IN THIS EDITION:

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- Upcoming Engagements*
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PEER MENTORS

MEET OUR STUDENT LEADERS!



Rhokaya Khalaf
BS-Public Health, Pre-Medicine
Peer Mentor

The Peer Mentoring program is vital to the program's effectiveness and success. This talented, experienced group of Golden Knights serve as your GPS for navigating college life. They provide underclassmen with valuable insights and information, tutoring, resources, and so much more! Peer Mentors bring the energy and life to our program.



Hawa Ahmed
BS- Nursing
Peer Mentor/Office Support



Ngendananimana Arthur
BS-Cybersecurity
Peer Mentor/Web Page Design



Jaylen Conley
BS-Mathematics & Secondary
Education
Peer Mentor/STEM Tutor Liaison



Lasya Vuyyuru
MS-Cybersecurity
Graduate Mentor Aide



Mary Parker
BA- Social Work
Peer Mentor/Social Media/



Mikel-Bryan Ott
BSB- Sports Management
& Marketing
Peer Mentor/Event Planning



Adian Al Bayati
BSB- Marketing
Peer Mentor/Social Media

The Review & What's New

TRIO SSS provided opportunities for students to embark on new adventures and expand their view of the campus and the world. Students participated in graduate school visits to gain knowledge of expectations, what to consider when choosing a program, and inspiration for academic pursuits. SSS cultural trips offered transformative experiences beyond tourism, fostering appreciation of diverse cultures and traditions. Several workshops and seminars were offered that presented opportunities for students to engage in learning that enhanced academic skills, professionalism, personal growth, and introduced them to various Gannon staff members and their offices.

GRADUATE SCHOOL VISITS



During Spring 2023, 13 students and the SSS Staff traveled to Philadelphia to visit graduate programs at Temple and Drexel University. Our student leaders collaborated and planned extensively to make it possible for the program to carefully orchestrate this experience. It enabled students to envision themselves continuing their education as part of a thriving academic community. Students learned what to consider when choosing a school and the resources available to them as they pursue advanced degrees. The Team is currently planning the Spring 2024 North Carolina visit to Duke, UNC, and North Carolina State.

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES



SSS enhanced the cultural trip experience for students by curating a diverse array of activities. Students attended an etiquette workshop with Emma Kovacs from Career Exploration & Development. They utilized these new skills during a fine dining experience at MiScuzi Italian Ristorante, then attended the Ballet Hispanico at the D'Angelo Center for Performing Arts. While in Philadelphia, students toured the Ben Franklin Museum, the Adventure Aquarium, the Liberty Bell exhibit and Independence Hall, and the Museum of Illusions. Over the summer, students engaged in learning Archery and its history, and they visited Cleveland for Kayaking and a tour of the Rock n Roll Hall of Fame. These experiences promoted meaningful cultural exchange through art, food, and history.

WORKSHOPS



SSS provided several workshops and seminars that increased student awareness and access to campus and community resources. Student leaders staff members presented on topics including time management, academic skills, financial wellness, FAFSA, and effective communication. The program collaborated with various departments such as Career Development & Exploration, TRAVEL & ABST, Counseling, and Financial Aid Also, Also, SSS partnered with PNC Bank for an introduction to managing credit, and Agresti Real Estate presented on 'purchasing your first home'.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



SSS participants are encouraged to actively engage in community initiatives, fostering a sense of responsibility and connection that extends beyond the classroom. This holistic approach empowers students to contribute meaningfully to their communities while enriching their educational experience. SSS participated in Gannon GIVE Day to spruce up Gridley Park. Students engaged with neighbors who offered school and career advice while sharing their appreciation for Gannon's efforts to support the neighborhood.

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

CANDLE MAKING WORKSHOP
NOVEMBER 28
3:30 PM - 6:00 PM @ CANDLE LAB

TRIO FALL GRADUATION CELEBRATION
NOVEMBER 30
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM @ CONFERENCE B

EXTENDED STUDY LOUNGE HOURS
DECEMBER 4-6
4:30 PM - 8:00 PM @ THE LOUNGE

**FINALS WEEK RELAXATION STATION/
GRAB N GO SNACKS**
DECEMBER 11-14
11:00 PM - 1:30 PM @ THE LOUNGE

MEET OUR STAFF



BRENDA ABREU-BAKER
ADVISOR

“MY PASSION AS AN ACADEMIC ADVISOR IS TO FOSTER STUDENTS' SENSE OF BELONGING TO AN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT THEIR GROWTH AS SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS WITHIN GANNON UNIVERSITY AND BEYOND.”



DENNIS J. WILLIAMS
DIRECTOR

“GANNON'S TRIO PROGRAMS ARE A TESTAMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY'S COMMITMENT TO EDUCATIONAL EQUITY. IT'S A PRIVILEGE TO ENGAGE OUR YOUNG SCHOLARS AND WITNESS THEIR TRANSFORMATION FROM STUDENT TO PROFESSIONAL.”

“Thank you & Good Luck, Lisa!!!”



The SSS Family would like to say CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU to Advisor, Lisa Connor! Lisa recently accepted the Assistant Director position with the Gannon McNair Scholars Program. “In your time with the program, you made meaningful connections and positively impacted each and everyone of us. We will miss popping into your office unannounced (for candy) and we wish you the best in your new role!” #TRIOSTRONG



CONNECT WITH US!