

SSS TRiO Connections

Welcome to Fall 2017 at MSUB

Are you ready for the new semester?

We are all excited for the 2017— 2018 Academic Year. To get you ready, here are some tips for succeeding and surviving the year:

Talk with your advisor: if you have questions about your course load for this semester. If you want a tutor or want to join a study group, SSS TRiO and the Academic Support Center (ACS) are great resources to help you.

In the classroom: introduce yourself to your instructors. This will make it easier to ask questions, discuss assignments, and grades.

Use a planner: to keep up with assignments, homework, tests, work schedules, and fun activities.



Make Connections:

Classmates and professors are great resources with information about your degree options, future career, new jobs or internships in the community. Even if you have a busy schedule, get involved. Your college experience is about more than just attending classes and doing homework.

Have Fun! There are terrific opportunities available to enhance your academic experience. Explore your options!

TRiO
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



Student Support Services TRiO
Located: Room 141 in the Library Building
Office Hours: Monday—Friday 8am-5pm
406-657-2162

September 2017

Meet The New Staff

Laura Gittings-Carlson (SSS TRiO Director) started college by obtaining an Associate's Degree while working full-time to pay for tuition, right out of high school. After this degree, she decided to take some time off and work. About seven years later she felt that she was ready to go back to college. As an older, nontraditional student Laura received her Bachelor's of Science in Sociology & Anthropology from MSU-Bozeman while working three-quarters to full-time. Fast forward a few more years and Laura completed her Master's in Public Administration at MSU Billings while working full-time and taking care of a busy family. Laura enjoys creating artwork, listening to music, learning new things, and spending time with her husband, two boys, and their dogs.

Stephen Stefan (Academic Counselor) grew up in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. Before attending Mansfield University, he took a year off between high school and college. While obtaining his Bachelor's Degree in Mass Media: Broadcasting and Creative Writing Minor, he was a first generation college student who participated in SSS TRiO. During his senior year, Stephen served other students as a TRiO Peer Mentor. He completed his Master's Degree in Strategic Public Relations from Shippensburg University. After graduate school, he moved to Montana to volunteer with the AmeriCorps VISTA program. Stephen spent his AmeriCorps service doing Economic Development in Red Lodge. He enjoys working out, photography, writing, hiking, traveling, and learning in his free time.



(Stephen, Sonja, and Laura)

Sonja Jones (Choriki) (Program Assistant) grew up in Billings, Montana and graduated from MSUB with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. Throughout her college career, she was very involved with several organizations and spent her last year as the Student Body President for MSUB. Sonja also worked for the TRiO Upward Bound summer programs while she was on campus and was a part of the TRiO ETS program growing up. In the future, Sonja plans to go back to school and receive her masters and possibly a PhD. In her free time, she likes to stay active. She enjoys golfing, snowboarding, archery, hiking, fishing, and horseback riding.



Tips for Reviewing Your Notes

Strategies for Remembering Important details:

- ⇒ Write down main ideas
- ⇒ Repeat your ideas out loud
- ⇒ Review notes from the previous class before the next class session

Comparing notes:

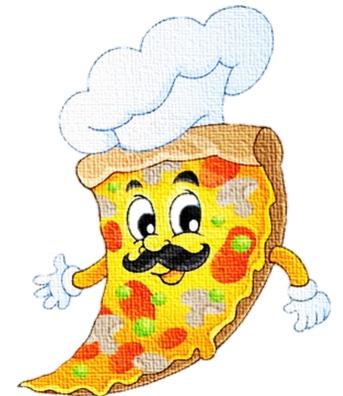
- ⇒ See if your notes are clear and organized
- ⇒ See whether you agree on what the most important points are
- ⇒ Study with a friend by testing each other on the information

Pizza Day Returns!

Wednesday October 4th

11 am —1 pm

**Located in
the SSS
TRiO
Office/
LI 141**



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Note Taking & Using Technology

- ⇒ Try taking notes on a laptop, tablet, or other mobile device.
- ⇒ If you handwrite notes, enter them on a computer after class.
- ⇒ Apps can help you with taking notes: *Pocket, Evernote, Study Blue, Cam Scanner, Scan Edit, and Tiny Tap.*
- ⇒ *PowerPoint is good for visual learners.*
- ⇒ *MS Word allows you to easily format and markup notes.*
- ⇒ *MS Excel is awesome for creating financial statements and other math related tasks.*

We Are Ready to Tutor You

Hello Students!

My name is Kimberly Kost, and I'm the Academic Coordinator for SSS TRIO; some of you know me, and others...well you'll get to know me.

We have a fantastic team of tutors for you to meet with, including myself for Mathematics help. However, some changes that have come about are with policies. First, and most importantly, we will be strictly enforcing the "three strikes and you're out" rule. Our tutors' time is valuable and they get paid if you don't show. What does that mean? ...it means that money that could have been used for another student who would use the time has now been essentially wasted. We also have a deadline for when you can request a tutor. Our deadline is October 1, 2017. If you miss the deadline, do not panic! Set up an appointment with me (Kim) and we can discuss your options.



If you think you might need tutoring for Fall 2017 classes, now is the time to submit your Tutoring Request Forms: www.msubillings.edu/sss/forms.htm

Some of you have already come to realize that I am holding you to your return dates for books, calculators, and other equipment. Each student will receive three messages when they have overdue equipment. The first is a reminder that the due date is coming up, the next is an e-mail telling you that your equipment is overdue and a hold will be placed if I don't hear from you by a certain date, and the last is a formal letter telling you that a hold has been placed. Our holds are simple to remove, just get the equipment back to me or pay for it and the hold on your account at the registrars office disappears.

The next real change to inventory is the actual sign-out sheets. Our new sheets (and policy) have a "Returned to" section. You MUST have a staff member initial the checkout form when you return your equipment by the due date, December 15, 2017. If you have any questions feel free to talk to me or any staff member by calling 406-657-2162.



Staying Active in SSS TRiO

Have you been wondering if you need to reapply for the SSS TRIO program each semester? The answer is No. Once you are accepted into the SSS TRIO program, you in until graduation.

To stay in the SSS TRIO program, you must do the following:

- ⇒ *Update documentation each semester with your Peer Mentor*
- ⇒ *Meet with your Peer Mentor at least 3 times each semester*
- ⇒ *Participate in 3 or more SSS TRiO services each semester*
 - ⇒ *Sign in and out every time you visit our office*

SSS TRIO staff are available from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday to assist you with any needs you may have. We are located in Room 141 of the Library Building.

Activites & Important Dates

The High Stakes of Macedonia's Colorful Revolution Art Exhibit—September 6 - October 12th

Service Saturday—September 16th

Diversity Center & HEROES Condom Fashion Show—September 25th

Last Day for Withdrawing/Dropping Classes with Partial Refund & No "W" - September 26th

Student Health Services Open House—September 27th

American Indian Outreach Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - September 27th

Cell Phone Smack Down—September 28th

Note Taking Workshop (SSS TRiO) — October 5th at 11am.

Study Skills Workshop (SSS TRiO) - October 12th at 12 noon

For more information [click here](#) to see the master calendar



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