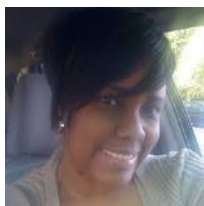


## *From the Director:*

### **Here Comes the Sun!!!**



This time of year we come out of the cold darkness and enter the light. Part of that light is finishing the school year or even graduating! Grads, we are SOOOO proud of you for reaching one of your goals! Remember when you started school, and this day seemed so far away. Well now you can say, "I did it!" Check out the amazing grad pics and stories in this issue. They are truly inspirational!

For those who are still working toward that goal, believe that it will be you someday soon. We will do everything we can to help you get there. If you're taking Summer courses, we applaud your determination. We are still here for you all Summer. In fact, Dr. Jane will lead a study group for Math 0950 this Summer to make sure that you continue on a successful path.

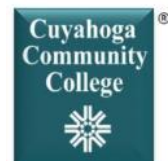
Math anxiety is a real challenge for many students. Read our story in this issue from a student with math anxiety who found comfort and ultimate success in Math by working with TRIO SSS. Proof that you can overcome the fear. For those taking Math courses Fall semester, get a head start by attending the TRIO SSS Jump Start the week before classes begin. The Jump Start will help you to refresh any math techniques you may forget over the Summer and introduce you to your upcoming Math content in 0950, 0960, 1250, 1270, 1280, and 1410.

Are you a Super Student? You could be a part of our Super Student Spotlight. Email us at [SSSMetro@tri-c.edu](mailto:SSSMetro@tri-c.edu), call us at (216) 987-4625, or stop by MLA 103 to tell us what makes you Super.

Time is running out to complete the new FAFSA. If you haven't done it yet and need help, make an appointment to come in.

Along with warmer weather, your futures are bright! We are here with you every step of the way. See you soon! Happy Summer!

Tamera D. Hauser, M.S.



### **Inside this issue**

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- ◆ SSS Works for Me! Jamillah Murdock
- ◆ Super Student Spotlight: Sherdena Dixon
- ◆ SSS Alumni News
- ◆ Grant Aid (\$\$)
- ◆ Awards Day Ceremony
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## *Student Leadership Conference by Gerry Nemeth, Math Instructional Assistant*



On March 27th, the 33rd annual OHIO TRIO Student Leadership Conference was held at Kent State University. This year's conference, with the theme "Building a Better Future," was attended by nearly 300 students and staff from TRIO programs all over the state of Ohio. The day started with a welcome from OHIO TRIO President and KSU Upward Bound Director, Thomas Jefferson, followed by speakers from two departments at Kent State. Afterwards, all of the students participated in a fun icebreaker. Students chose four breakout sessions to attend. Sessions were presented by professionals from across the state and covered

topics on passion, leadership skills, financial literacy, financial aid, higher education, personal image and growth, overcoming challenges, and much more. Conference attendees were treated to a dynamic keynote speaker during lunch, Derek Felton. Derek spoke of his own experiences, as well as the success stories of famous leaders. Derek also highlighted students' ability to drive their own future. When asked about his experience at this year's OHIO TRIO Student Leadership Conference, one student said, "I learned to be more open and never give up on my passion." Another student reported that the conference "gave (her) a lot to think about for the future and life itself."

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## *SSS Works for Me! By Jamillah Murdock (Associate of Arts)*



In January 2015, I stumbled upon Math Jump Start by accident while reviewing the Events Calendar on My Tri-C Space. I sat in my car for 30 minutes trying to work up the nerve to drive to the Metro Campus. I then sat in the parking lot for 30 minutes fighting nausea and my nerves just so I could get out of the car and go into the building.

Once inside the classroom where the event was to be held I started to breathe a little easier. We did several exercises, and when I didn't understand something, the staff was quick to assist.

At the end of the session, I was encouraged to apply for the TRIO program so I could get additional help with tutoring if I needed it.

I am in my early 40s and it feels good to not be terrified of Math anymore. I am happy to say that I am much more confident in my Math abilities due to the support and encouragement that I have received from the staff in the Student Support Services Department.

I've made a conscious decision to surround myself with those who want to see me succeed. I consider the staff within the TRIO program a part of my success team. Who's on your success team?

**TRiO**  


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**WORKS!**



**Super Student  
Spotlight**  
**Sherdena Dixon**



*JS: Congratulations! You're graduating with an Associate of Applied Business degree from Tri-C. What do you plan to do next?*

*SD: I have already transferred to the College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State to get a bachelor's degree. My goal is to become the administrator for my church and its community outreach projects.*

*JS: You've come a long way, Sherdena. Let's go back to your childhood or youth. Where shall we start?*

*SD: I ran away from home when I was 10 years old. My parents were on drugs. One day my mother said, "We're moving. Get your stuff." My dad was out of town. I thought he would be joining us, but my parents were splitting up. I ran away to my dad's house. I walked the whole way, from West 25<sup>th</sup> and Lorain to East 90<sup>th</sup> and St. Clair.*

*It was a nasty divorce with dual custody. I kept running away. I was 12 years old when I had my first child. I was looking for love and attention. I was in a detention home from ages 12 to 14 for running away and disobedience. At school I got mostly C's, D's, and F's.*

*By age 19, I had five sons and one daughter. With each pregnancy I developed toxemia. After the 6<sup>th</sup> pregnancy my kidneys failed, and I went on dialysis.*

*JS: That's a pretty grim beginning. Did your life improve then?*

*SD: No, it got worse. I started passing bad checks. In December of 2003, I was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary at Marysville. My mother and my sister took over the care of my children. When my sister came to visit me, she told me that the*

*children were not doing well. My 14 year old daughter was not eating and had lost a lot of weight. I was miserable. My children were very important to me.*

*One day as I sat on my bunk the realization came to me, "My life is unmanageable."*

*When I was released in October of 2005, I got a job at McDonalds and my children came to live with me. In January of 2006 I was approved for SSI. I am appreciative of a family counseling program sponsored by the Jewish Federation. We participated in family activities that improved family structure.*

*In 2009 I was called in for a kidney transplant. People in my church helped care for the kids. They visited me in the hospital. They cooked for me when I came home. I learned that blood isn't the only thing that makes a family. I prayed, "What can I do to show God my gratitude?"*

*I decided to go to college. I didn't have a high school diploma or a GED. I took the Ability to Benefit test at Tri-C and passed. I joined the ACCESS program for Students with Disabilities. They referred me to Student Support Services TRIO, and you became my adviser.*

*In May I will graduate with an associate degree. Also I will attend the GED graduation. I didn't need the GED to get the associate degree, but it was very important to me to finish high school. It was a reprieve from all the things I've done.*

*JS: I'm very proud of you and your achievements, Sherdena. Because of your experiences, both positive and negative, you will be a gift to your church and your community.*

*Interviewed March 4, 2014, by Dr. Jane Schierloh.*

### SSS Alumni News



Congratulations to **Lueth Ajieng** (AAS 2012) and **Peter Manyiel**, (AAS 2012) who graduated on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from Tiffin University, with Bachelor of Criminal Justice in Justice Administration degrees. They each earned a degree in Law Enforcement here and transferred to Tiffin through

Tri-C's degree completion program. We're so proud of you both!



**Tracy Smith**, who has earned three certificates and is scheduled to receive her AAS in Hospitality Management this summer, is working as a chef at Heinen's new downtown store.



**Kristi Copez** (Associate of Arts) has been extremely busy. In addition to studying for finals and completing class projects in order to graduate, Kristi was chosen to be the student speaker at the dedication ceremony for the Alfred Lerner Veterans Center on the Eastern

Campus. You can read more about Kristi through the link above. Congratulations, Kristi! [Success Story - Kristi Copez](#)

*Read more alumni news on page 8.*

### Grant Aid



Students who are enrolled in summer classes and have not received Grant Aid in 2014-15 are encouraged to apply. Grant Aid is FREE money for students

who have been active with SSS, are Pell eligible and have unmet financial need.

### SSS Metro TRiO Awards Day

At the end of every academic year, we formally celebrate the successes of our students. We love to acknowledge our graduates-to-be, and we ask them to identify the faculty members who have made the greatest impact on them.



This year's Awards Day was especially wonderful! On April 24, we honored 44 students who received or have petitioned to receive associate degrees and/or certificates. Students, staff, and guests met in the "Black Box" of

the Creative Arts Building, which was transformed into a red, white, and black (Trio colors) banquet hall.

While we ate, we watched a collage of photographs – memories from this year and Trio events of years past. Warm welcomes came from Associate Vice President Dr. JaNice Marshall and our director Tamera Hauser. Then our Mistress of Ceremonies, Metro Trio alum Charmain Gordon (Associate of Arts, 2013) introduced our Alumni Speaker, Monique Menefee Profitt (Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Applied Business, 2010).

Monique gave a powerful testimony about her journey through life and academia, which has just culminated in a Masters of Education from Kent State University. She has persevered through many things, but always keeps her focus on the positive. Monique is not only a Student Support Services alum, but also a Ronald E. McNair Scholar alum. Throughout her talk, she returned to her theme: "Trio Works."



After Monique's address, Mrs. Smith presented the honored faculty with personalized Trio Key jump drives. These Impact Awards honor professors





### *SSS Metro TRiO Awards Day (cont.)*

and instructors who were selected by the graduates because of their contributions to student success.



Tri-C student Kenesha Terrell serenaded our graduates with a beautifully sung version of Mariah Carey's "Hero." Next, our graduating speaker, Sharie Bailey, Associate of Arts, delivered a moving and motivating address. She spoke about how determination and perseverance, along with assistance from Trio, helped her overcome personal setbacks and achieve her goals.

The highlight of the ceremony came when Mrs. Hauser recognized each graduate by name. Each came to the podium to receive his or her Trio stole, to be worn at graduation, and a framed certificate of congratulations. Dr. Schoop ended our afternoon of celebration with a reminder that all students will succeed if they have a plan, a purpose, and a person (resource).

SSS Students: we are so proud of all of you! Remember to keep working towards your goals. We plan to celebrate again next April and look forward to honoring YOU!

### *SSS 2015 Awards Day Pictures*



## Summer Tutoring

SSS Tutors are standing by to help students. We don't take summers off!

### Math Tutoring

**Gerry Nemeth:**

T - 8:30 - 5:00

Th - 8:30 - 3:30

**Bleranda Musai:**

May 26 through June 12:

M-W-F 8:30 - 5:00

Wed., June 10 8:30 - 2:30

June 15 - July 4 (Out of office)

July 6 - Aug 7

M-W-TH-F 8:30 - 5:00

### Writing Walk Ins

**Mary Ann Meaker**

Wed. & Thurs., 10-11 am

Mon. & Tues., 2-3 pm.

## Summer Math Professionally Led Study Group

Dr. Jane knows that math never rests! If you are taking Math 0950 this summer, you need to be in Dr. Jane's Math group.

Contact SSS Staff in MLA 103 for the time and place.



Will you be taking Bio 1100 or Chem 1010 in the fall? How about Math? Will you be in Math 0950, 0960, 1250, 1270, 1280, or 1410?

You are so lucky!! You can attend the SSS Jump Start to ensure your success! We will be Jump Starting the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Bio 1100 & Chem 1010

Monday & Tuesday

August 17 & 18

10 am - noon; 1 - 3 pm

Attend all four sessions.

### Math 0950

Wednesday & Thursday

August 19 & August 20

10 - noon; 1 - 3 pm

Attend all four sessions.

### Math 0960

Monday and Tuesday

August 17 & 18

10 am - 12 noon

Attend both mornings.

### Math 1250/1410

Monday August 17, 1 - 3 OR

Tuesday, Aug. 18, 1 - 3

COME ONE AFTERNOON

### Math 1270/1280

Monday and Tuesday

August 17 and 18

1 pm - 3 pm

Attend both afternoons.



# Federal Student Aid

Your FAFSA PIN has been replaced by the Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID). Every student is required to set up an FSA ID as of May 10, 2015 in order to complete the FAFSA.

Do you know how to get one? Here's a link to the Federal Student Aid frequently asked questions page:

<https://www.nsls.ed.gov/npas/pub/faq.htm>.

Still have questions? Need assistance? All these questions, and many more, can be answered by your very own SSS Metro Trio Staff. Stop in and make an appointment with your advisor or with Alex.

Don't miss out on financial aid! Tri-C's priority filing deadline is July 1, 2015.

For more financial aid information, check out Tri-C's financial aid website at: [www.tri-c.edu/financialaid](http://www.tri-c.edu/financialaid).

## Important Dates

Full Term summer session begins  
**May 26**

Last day to withdraw from full term with no record  
**June 9**

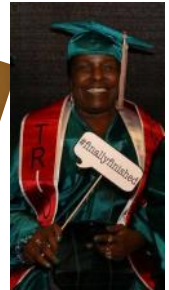
Payment deadline for Fall term  
**July 1**

Last day to withdraw from full term with a W  
**July 16**

Jump Start Math and Biology  
**August 17**

Fall semester begins  
**August 24**

## SSS 2015 Awards Day and Tri-C Commencement Pictures







### SSS Alumni News (cont.)

**Dexter Lowe** (Associate of Arts, 2014) is currently a junior at Cleveland State University. He writes:

*My years at Tri-C Metro helped me at CSU. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, I received from CSU a recognition of my academic achievement in Spring 2015 semester for making the Dean's List.*

*The transfer process to CSU was excellent because I took the time to go see for myself and to talk to the CSU Trio staff. I had another Tri-C alumnus give me a tour, explain to me how the university works, and most importantly, answer all my questions and help me to register as a CSU student.*

*It would be an honor for me to help you, as my dear friend Joan helped me. If you'd like me to meet with you and give you all the information I can about CSU and walk you through the university, you can ask a Metro Trio SSS staff member to contact me.*



Metro TRiO SSS Staff		
<b>Tamera Hauser</b> Director	<b>Jane Schierloh</b> Advisor	<b>MaryAnn Meaker</b> Advisor
<b>Gerry Nemeth</b> Math Instructional Assistant	<b>Alex Fuentes</b> IT Specialist	<b>Bleranda Musai</b> Math Tutoring
<b>Dyonne Smith</b> Program Assistant	<b>Angela Garcia</b> Student Assistant	<b>Lekiara Marti</b> Student Assistant
Location: Metro Liberal Arts 103 Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Monday - Friday) Website: <a href="http://www.tri-c.edu/ss">www.tri-c.edu/ss</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MetroTrioSSS">https://www.facebook.com/MetroTrioSSS</a>		

