Welcome to TRiO!

Summer is over! We are sorry...but we are also very excited to see all of you and to get this semester started! The start of a new school year can be difficult, especially if you are an incoming freshman, or even more if you are a first-generation college student stepping into the atmosphere for the first time. We are here to ease the transition!

There are plenty of ways to get involved with TRiO! You can get involved with the TRiO Social Committee and help plan events and socials and service projects. By getting involved with the Social Committee, you will be able to throw your hand in with the Tribune. A first meeting will be scheduled soon and will be declared on our social media platforms.

By doing this and getting involved you are not only building your resume with aspects like leadership, writing, and volunteering, but also having fun!

We will be launching our new INSPIRE program this fall. The program links first year students with upperclassmen for peer mentoring. Mentors will provide consistent support, guidance, and concrete help on a one-to-one basis encouraging mentees and assisting them to integrate into the campus community. If you are interested in participating in the program and receiving a peer mentor, please email Joyce Mann at joyce.mann@mail.ic.edu.

If you are unsure of how to get involved or can’t find something that interests you, go talk to your TRiO academic counselor! They can help you figure out what your interests are and help find a program or group that is right for you on campus.

MONTHLY QUOTE:
“No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world.”
~ Robin Williams
Meet Amy Schwiderski

Amy Schwiderski, a 1991 IC graduate, begins the 2014-2015 academic year as the Assistant Director of the Center for Academic Excellence. Amy's career began at Washington Elementary in 1993 where she taught sixth graders for twelve years.

In 2007 Amy received a Master of Science in education degree in multidisciplinary education at Western Illinois University and began teaching in the education department. She is currently enrolled in Saint Louis University’s Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program and anticipates completing her degree this year. Over her career, Schwiderski has been instrumental in securing grants from the Department of Education and the Walton Family Foundation, developing curriculum, and preparing college student diversity training. She plays an active role in numerous community activities and, as a member of the Illinois College Department of Education, has served on a number of committees for faculty searches, capstone projects, student life and the faculty-athletics coalition.

Schwiderski is the founder of 8 Points Charter School, the first of its kind in Jacksonville. The school opened in the fall of 2011 and offers students a constructivist, hands-on approach to learning in a setting with low student-to-teacher ratios, innovative teaching methods, and support for students and their families.

Amy is excited about the new position as the Assistant Director of the Center for Academic Excellence and she is anxiously awaiting working with students to support them in their personal and academic endeavors!

To contact Amy, you may visit Schewe 306 or call 245-3299

Daily Priorities List:

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This month’s spotlight is on Tammy Hayes, TRiO’s Administrative Assistant!

“Why am I excited for this school year?!?!?

I am excited for this school year to start because I have missed all our students so much!!!! We have become like a little family and that is very special to me. I always have looked forward to the summers since I am off all of June and July, but when it is time to come back there is just a wonderful buzz on campus that makes me anxious to see my peeps and learn about their wonderful summer and their plans for the new academic year.

My summer went really fast. I became a grandma for the first time in June, so I have an additional love of my life to hug and squeeze. But don’t worry, I still have plenty of smiles and hugs, hot chocolate and coffee, snacks and lots of pictures to share with everyone!

I am really looking forward to seeing everyone up here in the TRiO department. This is such a wonderful program designed to help you succeed in every possible way. Our entire TRiO team is dedicated to support you, help you and care about you so you reach every goal you have ever dreamed about.”

TRiO Tip of the Month: Start Early!

You may be taking your first steps onto the Illinois College campus, but it is never too early to get your priorities in check and get yourself organized. Everybody starts their first semester with a 4.0 GPA, but it is what you do in your first few weeks to a month that determines whether that stays a 4.0 GPA. Do your best and prepare for each class, and never be afraid to ask questions!

Another thing to be mindful of is convocations. You need to attend thirty of these to graduate from Illinois College, and there is no better time to start on them than now! Trust me, it is better to start early and pump out as many as you can this first year. You do not want to be rushing to get finished senior year!

And of course, if you need any help accomplishing these goals or any other academic goals, just contact your helpful TRiO Staff!

Meet Brett Lurkins!

“My name is Brett Lurkins and I grew up in the small town of Greenville, IL. I am proud to say that I can call Illinois College my alma mater, where I majored in Psychology and Communication & Rhetorical Studies. After my undergraduate career, I attended West Virginia University where I recently completed my M.A. in Communication Studies. Besides spending time with my lovely wife (who is also an IC alum) I like to go hiking, participate in sports, read, and draw works of art. I am more than excited to be back at my alma mater and to be making a difference in the IC community.”

Brett will be our new academic counselor, taking over Jason Stalides’s old position!
The New and Improved TRiO Tribune!

The TRiO Tribune has been revamped and reconfigured, and is under new management! Since its inception in 2011, the Tribune has been written and published by our talented academic counselor, Jason Stalides, but due to his departure to accept a new position (which we wish him the best of luck with!), the TRiO Tribune is in different hands.

This year, the Tribune will be ran by the TRiO Social Committee, with co-editor-in-chiefs Ryan Flynn and Dixie Freehill at the helm! With the change in editors, the Tribune has undergone a few changes in format, as well as a new feature column, 100 Words or Less, which will be featuring advice from people across the Illinois College campus to the students in TRiO.

If you are interested in contributing to the TRiO Tribune or have ideas, please come to one of the TRiO Social Committee meetings this year! Along with producing the Tribune, the Social Committee is in charge of planning socials for TRiO students, as well as coordinating service projects and other fun events!

If you can’t make it to a meeting, but still have ideas, don’t worry! Just email Dixie (Dixie.Freehill@mail.ic.edu) or Ryan (Flynn.Ryan@mail.ic.edu) and they will see to it that your voice is heard!

Get Involved with the TRiO Social Committee!

The TRiO Social Committee was organized last year by academic counselor Joyce Mann, and drew interest very quickly by people looking to participate. We learned what worked and what didn't and by the end of the first semester, we had a game plan for how we were going to draw in interest from the students of TRiO.

We hosted movie nights and helped with other socials, our poetry slam/open mic nights being the favorites! We also participated in Glocal last year, a week of volunteering and service projects. A group of TRiO students volunteered at Woodlawn Farm (picture to the left!).

This year we are also taking on the TRiO Tribune, which will give students the experience in writing and coordinating for editing purposes and reporting, and all kinds of media related tasks!

We are happy to welcome everyone interested in helping out and cannot wait to see the program grow and get more TRiO students involved this year. Last year, I served as the Social Committee President, and will continue to serve in that role being the CAE/TRiO Intern. I cannot wait to talk to you all soon! - Ryan Flynn