There is less than a handful of days remaining this semester. Everyone is busy, bustling around to prepare for finals, complete final course projects, make arrangements for the holidays, and wrap up any other loose ends after sixteen weeks of intense academic study.

Congratulations on all your hard work and for helping to make the fall semester for Illinois College’s TRiO program successful one! It has been our pleasure and privilege to work with you this semester. And while we too are looking forward to the holidays, we are also excited to get back to our work, back to our passion, next semester: helping students to succeed!

But with the end of a new semester comes the start of a new one. And regardless of how you finished the fall semester, the upcoming spring semester is a whole new opportunity to reinvent yourself. So while getting in some much needed rest and time spent with family and friends is paramount, so also is reflecting on this past semester: What has and has not worked well and why? And how can you take what you learned from this semester to incorporate positive changes for next semester?

Also use the break as an opportunity to keep learning. You have read a lot this semester. But you have been told what to read. This is your chance to read what you want before next semester! Same goes for writing!

One potential negative aspect of a month long break is losing the momentum you had built up over the course of the semester and possibly forgetting a lot of information you had learned, including effective study skills and habits. The result is that students often have to relearn things each new semester, sometimes the hard way. **So enjoy yourself, but keep up your practice!** After all, learning is not an isolated event that only happens at school.
Let us know what workshops you would like to see next semester!

We had some really great workshops lined up this semester, and a really fantastic turn out!

We are currently working on workshops for the upcoming spring semester, and we would like your feedback on what topics you would like to see and what times would work best for you.

We have a handful of tentative ideas:

⇒ **Another Career and Major Exploration Workshop**—this time focused on SKILLS (last one focused on interests)

⇒ **More Grad School Preparation Workshops** (possibly a series that looks at different aspects of the grad school preparation, timeline, and application process)

⇒ **Time Management**

⇒ **Memory Enhancement Techniques**

⇒ **Meeting with representatives (professors) from different majors to help be more informed about the major and career paths within the major**

⇒ **Writing-focused workshops** (or Tips to Improve Your Writing)

⇒ **Resume/Vitae/Cover Letter/Personal Statement Workshops**

We REALLY want to make sure we are providing the best services that will allow you to succeed, so please email us at jason.stalides@ic.edu to let us know what workshops would help you most!

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**TRiO Tip of the Week**

“Do not wait until the conditions are perfect to begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect.”

~Alan Cohen~

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**Contribute to the Tribune!**

We like to hear from students and use student guest columns as much as possible. So tell us your stories!!

The only requirement is that you be yourself. Contact Jason Stalides—jason.stalides@ic.edu, 217-291-1621—for more information!