

SWASAP NEWSLETTER

“Showcasing Our Graduates”

JUNE 2009

Presidential News

Dear Colleagues:

I want to begin by thanking the membership for all the warm hospitality that was shown to me while attending each state’s annual conference. I attended some awesome programs which made me proud to be part of SWASAP. SWASAP is strong and a leader in our nation.

Take pride in knowing that your board has been working hard for you this year to ensure that we advanced educational opportunity in our region. First, we have been working to develop regional resources that directly impact TRIO participants. Planning is underway for the 2009 SWASAP Student Leadership Conference at SKY Ranch in Van, Texas. SLC this year will focus on diversity and different cultures. Second, the board has been active politically. There was a strong delegation from SWASAP who visited the nation’s capitol in March, soliciting a 120 million increase for TRIO, and even though President Obama’s budget did not reflect this increase, the fight is not over. I encourage each member to call their representative and explain how difficult it is to serve students with no budget increase. Also, several outstanding statewide initiatives have taken place aimed at getting a clear message out in the communities about the importance of continued TRIO funding. Third, the board has been working to secure future leaders in our

region. We have nine TRIO professionals who are participating in the Emerging Leaders Institute. This leadership training will prepare them for future leadership positions in at the state and regional level. And finally, we have been working as a region to meet Fair Share. The Fair Share committee has worked extremely hard and they have done an exceptional job this year. I am extremely proud of their efforts.

There are so many exciting activities taking place in our region and I am so proud to be a part of SWASAP. SWASAP consistently leads the nation in defending and advancing educational opportunity. I encourage each member to support SWASAP by serving on a committee or board, attending the regional conference and by making a personal contribution to fair share.

I want to thank each of you for all you do for TRIO and I look forward to seeing you in November in Corpus Christi.

Cordially,

Jerry Thomas, President
Southwest Association of
Student Assistance Programs



TRiO

UP-COMING EVENTS

SWASAP Board Meeting

August 6-7, 2009
Corpus Christi TX

SWASAP ELI Meeting

August 12-13, 2009
Marriott Market Center, Dallas TX

COE Annual Conference

September 9-12, 2009
College Opportunity: A National Investment
Grand Hyatt, San Antonio

SWASAP Annual Conference

November 8 - 11, 2009
TRiO: The Audacity to Dream
Omni Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas

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Conference Update

It is my pleasure to share this update with you regarding the planning of the **2009 SWASAP Annual Conference “TRiO: The Audacity to Dream”**. We are off to a great start. I’m most impressed with the outstanding team of fellow SWASAPIans working tirelessly to ensure that you have a fun, festive, and productive educational experience in beautiful Corpus Christi, Texas, November

9-11 at the [Omni Hotel](#)

Stretching along the scenic bay front of the Gulf of Mexico, the city offers a distinct mixture of historical and cultural sites, diverse attractions, and numerous fabulous restaurants... I’m excited about this conference and can’t wait to ‘hang out on the beach in November’.

You will be receiv-



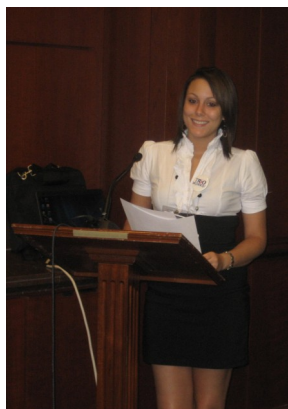
ing more information regarding the conference in the near future.

Barry Lofton, Chair
2009 Annual SWASAP Conference
SWASAP President-Elect



“Every success is built on the ability to do better than good enough.”
Unknown

SAU Student Addresses Congressional Staff



Jamie Bryant, a Southern Arkansas University Student and Former Upward Bounder, Is One of Four TRIO Participants in the Nation to Address the Congressional Staff.

On May 20, the Board of Directors for the Council for Opportunities in Education (COE) convened in Washington, DC for its Spring Board Meeting. During the week, COE President, Arnold Mitchem, charged the Board of Directors to energize their regional and state memberships to take swift action in light of the Administration's request to level-fund TRIO in its FY 2010 budget. In particular, Mitchem stated that, when speaking to congressional offices, TRIO advocates must make four basic points: (1) President Obama's FY 2010 budget is the same as President Bush's FY 2009 budget; (2) Level funding will result in

big losses in this year's Student Support Services competition; (3) Level funding will not provide sufficient funds for Talent Search and Upward Bound programs to meet the rigorous curriculum requirements of the Higher Education Opportunity Act; and (4) The proposed budget is inconsistent with the Obama Administration's stated goals of leading the world in terms of college completion.

In addition to several meetings, the week's activities included a congressional briefing sponsored by the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education. At this event, Department of Education researchers Margaret Cahalan and Michael Fong discussed the findings of four national studies of the Student Support Services, Talent Search, Upward Bound, and Upward Bound Math-Science programs. (A copy of these findings is available here: http://www.coenet.us/files/files-Studies_Find_TRIO_Programs_Effective.pdf.) During the event, the following current and former TRIO students shared testimonies about how these

programs positively impacted their lives: Sheyla Medina, a participant in the Student Support Services and McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Programs at the University of Pennsylvania; Tiffany Verdell, an alumna of the Talent Search Program at the University of Maine-Orono; Jamie Bryant, an alumna of the Upward Bound Program at Southern Arkansas University; and Julius Oguntayo, an alumnus of the Upward Bound Math-Science Program at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. These students offered wonderful presentations that greatly impressed the congressional staff in attendance at the event.

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**ARKANSAS
ASSOCIATION
OF
STUDENT
SUPPORT
SERVICES**

McNair Student Receives National Research Award

LASAP

LOUISIANA
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OF
STUDENT
ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS

McNair Scholar, Kaylah Lalonde, received the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) 2008 Students Preparing for Academic and Research Careers Award (SPARC) to fund the research project that led to her being one of very few undergraduate students to present at the ASHA annual convention.

The SPARC is a grant offered by ASHA to promote mentorship and research with an award up to \$1500, and was only awarded to eight students. As part of the grant Lalonde had to develop a plan for the 2008-2009 academic year, including research objectives, thesis completion, presentation plans, and teaching objectives. This also included an hour long guest lecture for an undergraduate class, and preparing an exam.

On Nov. 20-22, Lalonde joined professionals from around the country at the annual ASHA convention in Chicago, IL. She said, "The

convention was incredibly exciting because I was able to meet many of the authors of the research I've been reading." Her mentor, **Dr. Brittan Barker**, LSU Communication Science and Disorders, introduced her to several individuals from universities that Lalonde is considering for graduate school.

Lalonde will be a PhD candidate at Indiana University this fall where she was awarded a fellowship worth over \$250,000.



NMWTASAP

NEW MEXICO/WEST TEXAS
ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS



Morris Sharp III, a 2009 Clovis High School Graduate in Clovis, NM, and a participant in the Eastern New Mexico University Upward Bound Program in Portales, NM is a 2009 Bill Daniels Scholarship recipient. Morris will attend Eastern New Mexico University in fall 2009 on an Academic and Athletic Scholarship. While participating in the Upward Bound Program for 3 ½ year, Morris has attended the National Student Leadership Congress sponsored by the Council for Opportunity in Education and was chosen as the TRiO Voice for the TRiO Day Celebration at Eastern New Mexico University. Upon completion of college, Morris plans to attend Medical School to become an Osteo Surgeon.



*Congratulations
TRiO Student Support Services
Clovis Community College
2008 - 2009 Graduates*



Northern NM College
SOL Graduation/ Transfer Celebration
Friday, May 15, 2009

VUB Participant One of ECU's Top Ten Seniors



Montana Dugger came into the East Central University (ECU) Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) office four years ago after seeing a program flyer during a freshman orientation. He didn't really understand what VUB was all about, but he was a veteran planning to start college, therefore, thought he should investigate. Dub Borders was the VUB Counselor who visited with Montana on his first trip to our office.

Montana is a 2003 Weleetka, Oklahoma, high school graduate. He looked like the other beginning freshman, but he is not your ordinary college student. Montana is an Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) veteran who serves in the Oklahoma Army National Guard (OANG). He was deployed to Iraq in 2004-2005. He covered more than 3,000 miles on convoy security operations, completed electrical wiring, and worked with the Iraqi National Guard. As an OANG member, he was also activated to assist with hurricane Katrina relief efforts. He understands hard work and hard times. His dedication and commitment with regard to his service to our country are qualities he utilized to propel himself to the top of ECU's graduating class of 2009.

As a low income, first generation, honorable discharged veteran with a need for academic

assistance, Montana became a VUB participant. As any good soldier would do, he also brought friends, his fellow guard members, to the VUB office. He was a frequent visitor of the VUB computer lab. Eventually, Montana took a VA work study position with the VUB program.

Montana knows how to follow orders, but he is a trail blazer. He entered ECU's Homecoming Competition in 2007. The process was changed slightly that year to allow for a King and a Queen. You guessed it! Montana was voted ECU's First Homecoming King.

In 2007 Montana also entered the ECU Guard Officer Leadership Development (GOLD) Program, a commissioned officers training program for National Guard members. Montana completed the GOLD Program in 2008 as one of its first graduates. He also served as a member of the GOLD Program's Honor Guard, presenting the Nation's Colors at various events across the state.

Montana was selected as one of ECU's Top Ten Seniors for 2009. Nominations for this prestigious award are made by faculty and peers. Selection for this all around student award is based upon a high grade point average, leadership abilities, and campus and community involvement. Each nominee is

interviewed by a panel before the final selection was made.

Montana also received All Greek Male, the top male fraternal award for 2009. He held the office of vice president for finance in 2007 and 2008 for the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity. Other honors and awards bestowed upon Montana while he was attending ECU were selection for membership in the Alpha Chi Honor Society, Alpha Phi Criminal Justice Honor Society, Psy Chi Psychology Honor Society. He was also on the President's Honor Roll.

Montana graduated with a BS degree in Criminal Justice. He is now participating in the COPS program. Montana plans to apply to the FBI and will continue to serve in the Oklahoma National Guard. He is currently an OANG Commissioned Officer with 6 years of service.

The ECU VUB Program is proud to have had Montana as a participant, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

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DIVISION

OF

STUDENT

SERVICES

Graduate Spotlight

Ms. Monique Alexandra Sandoval has been a dedicated member of the Upward Bound Program at Abilene Christian University since January 2006. As an Abilene High School graduating senior, she plans to attend Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX where she has received guaranteed full tuition through the Bearkat Promise program. Monique will pursue an undergraduate degree in criminal justice and social work. In addition to being an active member of Upward Bound, Monique also participates in the cosmetology program and the Criminal Justice Club at Abilene High School. Monique competed in Skills USA (UIL Competition) in 2008 and 2009. In 2008, she earned 1st place for performing the duties of a police officer and 2nd place for the criminal justice knowledge quiz bowl competition. In

2009, she earned 1st place for cosmetology quiz bowl, for the leadership skills of customer service and 3rd place for men's haircutting. All of these rankings qualified her for state competition. She utilizes her leadership skills as the current club President of Cosmetology at Abilene High School and as a member of the National Technical Honor Society. Although a studious young lady, Monique also finds time to back to her community. She has dedicated over 90 hours of community service as an Abilene Regional student volunteer and as a child care student volunteer at the Day Nursery of Abilene and GV Daniels Recreational Center. With all of these activities, Monique completes her high school career with a 3.9 grade point

average. Monique Alexandra Sandoval is a splendid example of the spirit of determination, strength and competence present within all TRiO participants. We wish her well as she prepares for success in her upcoming postsecondary education career and in life.

Ms. Monique Alexandra Sandoval



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TEXAS
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OF STUDENT
SPECIAL
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