

TRiO-EOC NewsFlash

“TRiO-EOC Makes a Difference...” Meet Rosemary Williams & Yusuf Anderson:

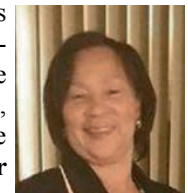
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I am a 55-year-old African-American female who recently obtained my Bachelor of Arts Degree from Wayne State University. It seems all my life I've been somewhat behind schedule. I graduated two years behind my High School graduating class; but, I was determined to continue my education. I received an Associate Degree in Business Administration at Wayne County Community College then transferred to WSU in 1982. My life took a downward spiral and I dropped out due to drug addiction. The next year I was pregnant—and had a son.

Seventeen years later, the WSU TRiO-EOC Program was enrolling EOC participants where I worked and assisting them with educational opportunities. I spoke with Counselor, Linda Fuggs, who reminded me that it's never too late to pursue your dreams. So back to school I went!

Many obstacles presented themselves. Fears of inadequacy and delays progress gave me thoughts of quitting. My mother’s death almost paralyzed me. My EOC counselor always encouraged me and kept pushing me forward. Finally graduation day arrived. It seemed it would never come, giving up was not an option. I graduated with my Bachelor’s Degree and my son graduated with his Master’s Degree, December 2014. **“It’s never too late to pursue your dreams!”**



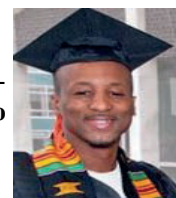
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Rosemary Williams

Life experience has taught me that it is never too late to achieve success. My journey began with reconnecting to a 3rd grader vision; the mental image of me as a successful engineer/tech entrepreneur. This image of me as a top professional is what I was able to reconnect with while sitting in solitary confinement during an 18-yr felony prison sentence.

In the correctional facility’s library, I found an old dusty college algebra book and an Occupational handbook. While flipping through the table of contents, I began to rediscover my love for mathematics and imagined a pathway beyond my reality. I completed my GED and later credits toward a high school diploma. From my cell, I developed a list of top Engineering colleges and universities in the country.

I was released August 2003, and became a full-time student at WCCCD. I completed my first year with a 3.8 GPA but needed a greater academic challenge. I expressed this desire to my WCCCD TRiO Counselor, Ms. Yolanda Russell. Ms. Russell instructed me to make an appointment to see WSU TRiO-EOC Counselor, Ms. Linda Fuggs. With Ms. Fuggs’ guidance, I was able to push through all the fears and confusion and become a successful WSU Student. Since graduation from Wayne State University in 2013, I have been working on the cutting edge of technology as an Electrical Engineer. EOC has been instrumental in helping me to carry my Vision... from penitentiary to professional in 8 years. **Again, it is never too late!**



Yusuf Anderson

TRiO-EOC

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“TRiO-EOC MEN OF COLOR *SPEAK...*” *Barbara Hale*

From time-to-time whenever we strive to meet a stated goal, we are faced with challenges that appear to be unsurmountable. During those phases in our life, we attempt to identify individuals who have “excelled over challenges” and achieved success. To those **Men of Color** who are in pursuit of academic success, listen closely as other **Men of Color** share regarding the measures utilized to achieve academic success at Wayne State University.

Building a support system that is comprised of like-minded individuals, networking, student organizations, as well as TRiO-EOC counseling/mentoring and related activities, appear to have been the keys to success for each of our interviewees. Repeatedly, each expressed their appreciation for the genuine support received from the TRiO-EOC staff. Additionally, for those

Men of Color who may have been out of school for some time, drawing from past interests can serve as a mechanism to assist you in achieving academic success.

In leaving a legacy to assist fellow WSU **Men of Color** counterparts, our interviewees shared that making a commitment to self to finish what has been started; identifying personal purpose in life; deciding what you are willing to do to

become successful; finding winners with whom to associate yourself; operating in faith and vision; utilizing all available campus resources; finding a mentor and focus will ultimately bring success!

Thank you, *Eric Payne, Pastor Gerald Ervin, Terrance MBagwu, Andre’ Seewood, and Yusuf Anderson* for sharing your opinions and wisdom.



Student Editorial

“You are What You Believe !”

LaKeitha Greene: WSU TRiO-EOC Student

When people hear the phrase, “You are What You Believe,” they sometimes do not take it literally. One of the biggest obstacles students face once they actually get to college is pushing through and finishing. Students do not realize that having positive outlooks lead to positive results.

Having faith in yourself is more than half the battle, actually, it is almost the complete battle. The brain is a powerful tool and can do

more than the average college student thinks it can. Focusing on what one wants, instead of what one does not have, is the key for college students to pull through, especially during tough times. You are your thoughts and whatever one focuses on is what will manifest in his/her life. Positive thoughts result in positive outcomes.



“After Enrollment, Then What?”

JaVita Charley

When individuals decide to enroll into college, the reasons are typically to obtain a degree to secure future financial security or simply due to the influence of their parents. For most potential college students, picking a school and securing funding are the two main points of concern. Some may even have a major in mind but, after that has been addressed and classes begin, then what?

The 1980's TV sitcom “The Cosby Show” depicted a beautiful tight-knit



successful family with parents and siblings who were very supportive of their children who went off to college. This popular show was loved by many, but reality for few. Not everyone comes from a family of doctors and lawyers. Not everyone has a support base to give them words of encouragement when classes get tough.

There are students who deal with jealousy and drama at home; some are single parents; live in rough neighborhoods; and various other factors. Is-

sues like these can be discouraging and hinder success.

There's a program, however, that aids in combatting those outside negative influences and that's the TRiO-EOC Program. With attentive caring, reliable staff and services, every student is provided the supportive foundation necessary to make their goals attainable. I know, personally, because I am an Alum of WSU TRiO-EOC, and a proud graduate of WCCCD and Specs Howard School of Media Arts.

“There IS Life After A Bad Grade!”

Mersedesz Brown

Have you ever studied so hard that you forgot everything all at once and blanked out on the actual test? Is studying at home difficult? Are you an “over achiever?” If you are answering yes to these few questions I would like for you to take a deep breath and relax. There IS life after a bad grade! You can and you will do better on the next test.

Learn, See, Grow and Speak positivity. As the old saying goes “Practice makes perfect!” Try not to over study, you

must give your mind a break to process the information you have just taken in.

Unfortunately, a very high percentage of us base our worth by the grades we have received and we start to feel like failures! Well, my advice: stop thinking in harmful ways and be grateful that you “tried.” Keep your head up and try again. “If at first you don't succeed, dust yourself off and try...try...try...again!” – Aaliyah



“TRiO-EOC Helps Me to be Free...”

Monet Eason

Today when our city, state, and country are encouraging Economic Development, there is more student debt than credit card debt. For those of us that are still in college, it is very tempting to accept every loan offered, but we must make wise financial decisions. It is important that we consider how our student loans and/or debt affect our

credit report and/or credit scores.

In order to graduate with less debt, we must plan ahead.

It has always been my personal desire to live a “debt free” life. As a WSU TRiO-EOC participant for two years, I have been given the chance to participate in financial literacy workshops and was provided financial



information and resources. Those Opportunities were priceless and have supported my desire “to be free!” **Thank you TRiO-EOC!**

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Wayne State University TRiO
Educational Opportunity Center



The Educational Opportunity Center at Wayne State University is a non-profit, Federally funded program. We are the doorway to beginning, continuing, and/or completing post-secondary education. We currently provide FREE Admissions Assistance (to your school of choice), FAFSA Completion Assistance, Financial/Scholarship Resources, Career Guidance, Academic Advising, Personal Counseling, and Much, Much more. All residents ages 17 and above in the Michigan Tri-County area are eligible; especially those who are low-income and/or First Generational. Additionally, if your need is High School completion; we are the bridge to GED and High School Completion Programs. "We are here to serve!" To hear what our participants are saying go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zN809dnRfJA>



Linda A. Fuggs

"Statistically Speaking..." *Delta J. Saulsberry, Program Director*

Academic Year, 2013/2014, was very productive for the TRiO Educational Opportunity Center. We served 1,259 individuals: 733 males and 526 females. Age ranges served were: 486 individuals ages 17-18; 271 ages 19-27; and 502 individuals 28 and above. 72 military-connected persons participated in our program last year. Additionally, of the 618 participants that did not have a secondary school diploma or GED Certificate upon entering the TRiO EOC program, 71% received their high school diploma or GED Certificate. Further, of the 1,096 participants who were not already enrolled in a postsecondary education program, but were college-ready: 78% completed finan-

cial aid applications and 67% applied for admission to a postsecondary education programs. Also, of the 1,021 high school graduates or equivalents that were not already enrolled in a postsecondary education school, 44% were enrolled in a postsecondary school. Of the 44%: 298 individuals enrolled in 2-year public institutions; 3 enrolled in 2-year private institutions; 105 enrolled in 4-year public institutions; 26 enrolled in 4-year private institutions; 5 enrolled in vocational/technical institutions; and 6 enrolled in proprietary schools. Congratulations to both the students and staff for a job well done!!! We look forward to "Making a Differ-

ence in the Lives of People for Years to come."

