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STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES - TRIO PROGRAM  
SEWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ♦ AREA TECHNICAL SCHOOL  
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# Reaching for the Stars Student Support Services <sup>TRiO</sup>

Spring 2011 **NEWSLETTER** Vol. 1, Issue 2

## INTRODUCING the Class of 2011

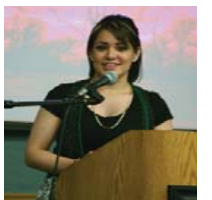


### TRiO Students of the Year



This year TRiO had two Students of the Year, Enrique "Ricky" Rodriguez and Janette Vargas.

Ricky has been actively involved in the TRiO program. Ricky has maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.83, while being a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Sigma Chi Chi Criminal Justice Club, HALO and Sheriff Explorer's Program. Ricky will be graduating with an AS in Criminal Justice and will attend Wichita State University in the fall.



Janette Vargas has been extremely active in all aspects of the TRiO program. Janette has maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.81, while being a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Sigma Chi Chi Criminal Justice Club, Kylix Art Club and the Sheriff Explorer's Program. Janette was recently awarded SCCC/ATS Outstanding Graduate of the Year. She will be graduating with an AS in Criminal Justice and will attend Fort Hays State University this fall.

## TRiO Culutral Trip



TRiO Students pose with performers of The Aluminum Show

The trip was amazing and worth it in every aspect. We reached Hampton Inn and Suites around 2:00-2:30 p.m. and roamed around Bricktown in Oklahoma City (they don't call it Bricktown for nothing!) for a few hours, looking at all the restaurants. We ate dinner at Zio's Italian Kitchen, and the food and the service there was absolutely amazing. After dinner we attended the Aluminum Show. It was my first time ever hearing about the show, and I was astonished at the creativity and skill behind the whole thing. I kept hearing, "Oh it's a group from Israel that dances with tin foil." That really didn't sound interesting to me at all, but after seeing that the aluminum show was more like a musical with a storyline, I was immediately in love with the whole show.

The next phase of the trip included

going to the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. I was 5 when the Oklahoma City bombing happened and really did not grow up impacted by it because I never remembered hearing anybody talking about it. But to actually sit in the museum and listen to a recording of one of the board meetings that took place 2 minutes before the explosion gave me a sense of being there in a way. I almost cried. The memorial and museum was a way for me to establish a connection with the victims that I never knew and have a new appreciation for the people of Oklahoma. Overall the trip was absolutely amazing, and I look forward to the next one!

Zach Carpenter



TRiO Students at the OKC National Memorial & Museum

## TRiO ACHIEVERS!



My name is Gwen Friesen. When I started college four years ago, I wanted to do something worthwhile with my life. The problem was I did not have a clue about anything involving college. I had not studied for close to ten years. With my physical limitations, I wondered how I would ever be successful. Well, I found that with the right help, I could make it. I found that as a member of TRiO at SCCC/ATS I had access to another support system in addition to

my family and friends. The TRiO staff and other faculty and staff at SCCC/ATS helped me learn to set my priorities and goals. Learning to keep my priorities straight and managing my time helped me succeed. Now, in May 2011, I will graduate with my Associates in Arts, and I cannot wait to enroll in FHSU's Teacher Education Program. Thanks to everyone at SCCC/ATS and TRiO, I am proof that it is possible to succeed. Just find your support system and reach for your dreams.



## Farewell to a Giant



I have been blessed to have been given the privilege of working with students at SCCC/ATS for the past two years. It has been the most rewarding two years of a 45-year career in education. The decision to resign at the end of this year did not come easy. I knew giving up something I dearly love - which was the opportunity to work with some of the finest young people in the world - would be difficult. These past two years has been a labor of love and I cherish the friendships and the memories. Hopefully, I have made a small contribution to SCCC/ATS and the students with whom I have worked.

Words cannot express how the students at Seward County have impacted my life. They have validated my life's work in so many ways and what better way to walk away then knowing that you did something worthwhile! What I am getting ready to do is exactly what my students face: being scared to death of what lies ahead but equally eager to experience the change, pursuing other interests and chase other dreams! My plans are to travel, spoil grandkids and be a nuisance to my wonderful wife, Cindi. I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported me the past two years, but especially Rhonda Kinser who took a chance with an "old dog" and taught him some new tricks! Thanks to all! I now bleed "green!"

Robert Herbig