

Fall 2025 |

# TRIO

## WHAT'S EVERYONE UP TO?

GET A LOOK AT THE AWARDS RECEIVED AND STAND-OUT ACADEMICS OF FELLOW TRIO STUDENTS

## THE EXPERIENCE

READ QUOTES FROM STUDENTS AND YOUR FAVORITE ADVISORS

Fall 2025

# RECAP

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## THANK YOU

# STUDENT STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

THIS ISN'T ALL OF OUR STUDENT STAFF, BUT WE WANTED TO TAKE A MOMENT TO AT LEAST SHOW OFF SOME OF THE WONDERFUL STUDENTS THAT WE HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF WORKING WITH THIS PAST SEMESTER. THESE STUDENTS DO AN INCREDIBLE JOB OF BALANCING WORK, SCHOOL, AND THEIR TRIO DUTIES. WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER SEMESTER OF HAVING FUN AND GETTING THINGS DONE!

STUDENT STAFF HIGHLIGHT

**TRIO**  
STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM



**OFFICE AIDE**

"I stay in the TRIO office assisting student with their needs, decorating the office, making the newsletter, and helping a little behind the scenes!"

- Chase Baxter

STUDENT STAFF HIGHLIGHT

**TRIO**  
STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM



**CO-INSTRUCTOR**

"Hi! My name's Cash! I'm a Co-Instructor for TRIO's required classes. I help out with the lessons, grading, and anything else students need in our FYE 2100 and UNIV 1030 classes!"

- Cash Rabley

STUDENT STAFF HIGHLIGHT

**TRIO**  
STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM



**CO-INSTRUCTOR**

"Hello! I'm a sophomore at Western Michigan University studying Digital Marketing with minors in Business Administration and Entrepreneurship! TRIO helped me navigate my freshman year, so this year I am an FYE co-instructor to help new students do the same. I also work as a marketing intern at Miller Auditorium, and you might even see me on their TikTok! In my free time, I serve as the Public Relations Chair for Alpha Lambda Delta and volunteer with The Great Lakes Burn Camp."

- Trisha Larkin

# KEEP CALM

With hard work and  
dedication, our students have  
made it through another  
semester with TRIO

WE'VE MADE IT!

# AND

# TRIO ON

As we wrap up this semester, we're thrilled to share this special TRIO recap magazine filled with the memories, milestones, and moments that made this term so special! Inside, you'll find highlights of our favorite events, celebrations of well-deserved honors and awards, shoutouts to our Dean's List students, and lots of love for our fall graduates. We've also sprinkled in some student and staff testimonies to truly capture the heart of our TRIO community. Whether you're a student, parent, or supporter, we hope this magazine brings a smile to your face and reminds you of just how much growth, hard work, and joy this semester has brought.

# HONORS AND AWARDS:

## SAMANTHA BECKER



Samantha is a full-time non-traditional WMU student who embodies TRIO: first-generation, disabled, and low-income. Experiencing TRIO's FYE in her first year on campus inspired her to help create a supportive environment where future students could grow and thrive. As a TRIO co-facilitator, she mentors students by sharing her real-life experiences and guiding them to embrace opportunities they may never have considered, from volunteering to community engagement. Her own involvement in outreach and service allows her to model the value of giving back, cultivating purpose, leadership, and confidence in the students she guides.

Through her mentorship with TRIO, Samantha connects classroom learning, TRIO resources, and life experiences, helping students see how education and service intersect to empower them both personally and professionally. She strives to instill curiosity, courage, and resilience, ensuring every student she mentors can step boldly into the versions of themselves they may have once been too hesitant to pursue!

# ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## JORDAN MOORE

WMU is heading into year two of our partnership with the Detroit Lions as their higher education partner. This three-year collaboration was celebrated at Ford Field during the Lions' home opener. During a special pre-game ceremony, Western student Jordan Moore received the Detroit Lions Western Michigan University Service Award, a \$5,000 scholarship that recognizes extensive community service and leadership. Jordan has achieved so much both as a TRIO student and through his many positions within the Merze Tate College including his position as president and founder of the RSO L.I.F.E.



### FUN FACT

Last year Jordan was honored with the Undergraduate Student Employee of the Year award out of the Career and Student Employment Services Office



# TRIO STUDENTS SPOTTED

**FUN FACT**

Chy'Ah used to work as a co-instructor for the TRIO office

This fall, several TRIO students stepped into a world of denim, glamour, and unapologetic creativity of STYLE Fashion. STYLE (Sophisticated, Talented, Youthful, Leaders, Entrepreneurs) celebrated the talent, and entrepreneurial spirit of young designers and leaders on campus by showcasing the designs of WMU students.



TRIO STUDENT CHY'AH SMITH MC'D THE EVENT. (SHOWN BELOW, TO THE LEFT).



TRIO STUDENT FATIMA RODRIGUEZ (SHOWN TO THE LEFT)

On Friday, Dec 5, the STYLE presented its second-ever runway showcase—a bold, Cowboy Carter—theme. STYLE elevated the experience with a vibrant display of student-made collections and a dynamic brand segment that invited Michigan-based labels to join the spotlight. Designers from Donna Finery, Dollar Man, Contentment, and others entrusted students to model their pieces, transforming the runway into a true collaboration of local artistry and student excellence. The night included a dance performance by... featuring TRIO students Kennedy Fennicks, Madason Cook, Kennedy Cook, and Zanah Arnold. This STYLE event was truly a tribute to creativity, community, and the rising voices shaping Michigan's style landscape.

# TRIO FALL 2025 EVENTS

As the Fall 2025 semester unfolded, TRIO proved to be a vibrant hub of connection, growth, and opportunity. Hosting many community-building events, TRIO brought students together in ways that empowered, inspired, and reminded them that success is a shared journey. This semester's lineup helped to strengthen the sense of belonging that is at the heart of TRIO's mission. What follows is a look back at the moments, milestones, and meaningful experiences that made Fall 2025 special.



## **Welcome Back BBQ**

TRIO started off the semester with a welcome barbecue with food, games, and music. The sunny weather was perfect as new and returning students gathered to reconnect, relax, and enjoy the start of a new semester. With a great turnout, the event set a positive tone for the semester ahead.



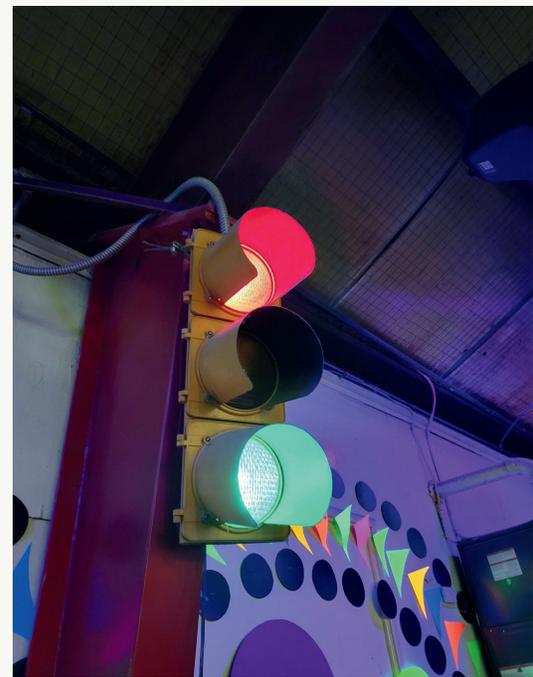
## **University of Michigan- Grad Trip**

This year's TRIO Grad Trip took students to the University of Michigan, where they spent the day exploring campus life and imagining their next academic steps.

## Roller Skating Night

If there's one thing our TRIO students love, it's roller skating! This year's TRIO trip to Revel and Roll was a great success. Whether they were stepping onto the rink for the first time or rediscovering an old hobby, everyone found a place.

Experienced skaters helped out newcomers, creating a sense of teamwork and encouragement that's at the heart of the TRIO community. The staff didn't stay on the sidelines, either—they joined right in. Their enthusiasm matched the students' stride for stride, adding to the fun and showing that TRIO events are truly for everyone.



## Painting Night

Students gathered to relax, unwind, and express themselves on canvas letting imagination take the lead. This event served as a reminder of how refreshing it can be to pause and create.





## **Cedar Point Trip**

TRIO took its annual trip to Cedar Point, and the day was packed with excitement. TRIO students spent a whole day enjoying the thrills of the park's famous roller coasters and soaking in the festive Halloween decorations and seasonal fun. The trip offered a perfect break from the semester—filled with bonding, and memories



## **Planting Party**

TRIO students got their hands dirty as they planted and potted a variety of greenery into hand painted pots.

## Crepe Day

TRIO students celebrated a community Crepe Day with delicious fun, enjoying fresh crepes made by our amazing staff. With a colorful spread of berries, nuts, sauces, and other toppings everyone was able to customize their treat just the way they liked. The workroom is the hub of many student events, and this is another warm event to add to the books.



## Mario Kart Party

TRIO students revved up the fun at our Mario Kart Party. With lots of friendly competition, students raced through colorful tracks, showing off their skills, and cheering at every twist and turn



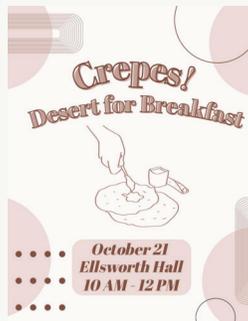
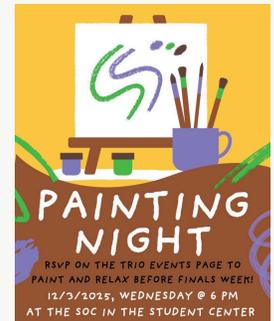
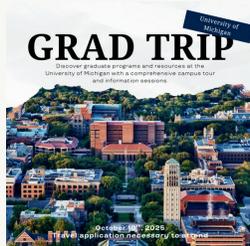
# TRIO OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS

## NEW HIRE: JENNIFER CHURILLA

Joining us as our new administrative assistant, Jennifer is our newest addition to the TRIO family! Coming from a background in social work, with experience in harm reduction, mental health and recovery as well as customer service, management and training. She is passionate about helping people feel supported, welcomed and empowered. Some fun facts about her are that she has been vegetarian since she was 13, loves to travel, loves listening to music and going to concerts, photography, and adopted a cat from SPCA back in 2011 named Monroe Rae Charles Churilla.



## FALL POSTERS



Did you make it to any of our events this year? This spring we will have a whole new set of fun events put on by students, for students. Come mess around a see 😊

# WE GOT A COUCH!!

TRIO students, there's a new reason to stop by the workroom. The TRIO workroom got a fresh upgrade over the summer with a new couch! Need a comfortable spot on campus? Come relax, recharge, and enjoy your space. Perfect for studying or connecting with your TRIO community.



## SNACK SHELF

Whether you're running between classes, cramming for an exam, or just need a quick break, the TRIO snack shelves are always stocked with snacks to give you a little extra boost when you need it. Come hang out, refuel, and keep moving—you're always welcome here.

# GRADUATING STUDENTS

To our 21 graduating students, congratulations on reaching this important milestone. Your dedication, persistence, and hard work have brought you to this moment, and we are truly proud of all that you have accomplished along the way.

Whether your next step is a new career, continued education, or exciting new adventures, know that you will always have the full support of your TRIO family behind you. Your success is not defined by your job title, degree, or life destination, but by the courage it took to take a chance and make it happen. We are honored to have been part of your journey and look forward to seeing what comes next.

Congratulations, graduates, and always remember, TRIO works!



DEE. A WITH DR. WALLACE

## Graduates(in alphabetical):

|                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Dee Atkinson           | Kevin Munn           |
| Kaylen Baker           | Madison Price-Yancy  |
| Destin Belger          | Khaledur Rahman      |
| Chasetin Bittner       | Alexis Rivera        |
| Yarely Gonzalez        | Shumdahan Saleh      |
| Alissa Hannah          | Raelyn Statler       |
| Brynie Harden          | Joshua Stone         |
| Demarious(Mar) Jackson | Quincy Sulton        |
| Talin Khanna           | Carly K. Ness(Tolan) |
| Breanna Lozada(Grimes) | Heather Reese        |
| Alexander Mendez       |                      |

# TRIO QUOTES

This semester, TRIO was empowered by the students who showed up, worked hard, and supported one another, along with the advisors/administrators who cheered them on every step of the way. The quotes below share reflections from both students and staff, capturing the growth and community that made this semester so special.



*"It's not all about the grades during the semester, by the end of the semester you've succeed in passion and greatness. We all did our very best to be magnificent."*

*Kevin Munn*

*"I am so proud to be part of this TRIO community. It has been a great year- TRIO students have won awards, advocated for themselves, excelled in the classroom, took on leadership roles, and much more. Looking forward to another great year with the best students at WMU!"*

*Alexis Byers*



*"I often think about the idea that we have this unlimited resource in ourselves called 'grace' but often times, it's one of the hardest things to give away for free. I love how grace giving our students are, and I love to see how they continue to be kind in a cruel world."*

*Bracey*



# THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING 2025! GO TRIO!

This year signaled many successes and milestones for TRIO and it's students. We want every student to know that we are proud of you in whatever steps you took in your education and towards investing in yourself and your future. We will continue to be here to support you in your journey.



**WE WILL SEE  
YOU IN 2026!!**

