

# WORKS!



TRIO GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE

SUMMER 2024

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

with Kris Hatcher, Ed.D



Like many of you, I feel this summer has seemingly gone by in a flash! Our Upward Bound (UB) team hosted participants for a six-week summer program during June and July. Among other things, UB students learned about Web Coding, S.T.E.M., and Acting. The Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) stayed extremely busy, too, helping students apply for college and fill out financial aid applications such as the FAFSA. So much so, in fact, that the EOC is only a few participants away from meeting its overall yearly benchmark. Last but not least, Student Support Services (SSS) wrote and submitted a proposal to renew its funding. If the U.S. Department of Education approves that request, SSS will receive approximately \$1,500,000 for September 1st, 2025, through August 31st, 2030.

In addition to regular services, UB and SSS took participants on a college tour of New Orleans. On the first day, students toured the University of New Orleans and Blaine Kern Studios—which builds Mardi Gras floats, props, and masks. Students then toured Loyola University, Tulane University, and the World War II Museum during day two. The third day concluded with an Airboat tour of Louisiana swamps and alligators. On our way back to Panama City, we asked participants to complete an online survey to evaluate the trip. Although every student positively rated their experience, the following comment stood out as a testament to TRIO's value:

“I really enjoyed the activities, and tours we did. It was very hot on the tours but was beautiful and incredibly informational. The trip sends a reminder to me that the world is so much bigger than Panama City. Also, as someone who doesn't have a lot of money, or didn't grow up with money, it's incredible to be able to see some parts of the world without having to worry about money.”

As we begin the upcoming fall semester, please don't hesitate to refer students to TRIO for services. Our SSS, UB, and EOC staff are eager to facilitate your students' studies and educational journeys!

## Educational Opportunity Center



The Educational Opportunity Center is in the last month of a busy grant year! We have been thrilled to help so many participants take the next steps toward meeting their future goals. Our grant set out to assist 1,000 from September 1st, 2023 to August 31st, 2024, and we fully expect to have exceeded that number at the close of our grant year!

That being said, we'll have another tall task of helping 1,000 more adults seek college access and support during the 2024-2025 academic year. Please stop by and see us so we can help you and your students pursue higher education!

-Lisa

[To learn more about EOC click here](#)

## Student Support Services

To mark the end of the 2023-2024 academic year, Student Support Services organized a memorable trip to city of New Orleans. Our GCSC students were able to explore transfer opportunities to the campuses of Loyola University, Tulane University, and the University of New Orleans, gaining valuable insights into higher education outside our home state. The trip also immersed students in New Orleans' vibrant culture. They enjoyed the city's rich history, music, and cuisine, from jazz performances in the French Quarter to savoring beignets at Café du Monde. This blend of educational and cultural experiences left a lasting impression on our students and the opportunities that are before them. SSS celebrates 51 graduates and looks forward to seeing how far they go!

-Kendra

[To learn more about SSS click here](#)



## Upward Bound

Upward Bound had an amazing summer program this year! Our high school students had the opportunity to explore the beauty of GCSC's campuses by visiting various departments—including the Charles Hilton Center, Health Science, Wellness, Visual Arts, and our North Bay facilities. Each department's participation was invaluable, sparking a keen interest in college and career paths among our Upward Bound participants. In addition to campus tours, students focused on coding, STEM, art, writing, and Spanish. We were fortunate, as well, to have speakers from local organizations provide insights into various career opportunities that captivated students' interests. The summer concluded with an enriching college tour with cultural events in New Orleans. For many students, it was their first visit, and they truly enjoyed the experience!



-Danielle

[To learn more about UB click here](#)

## Tutoring Lab

This summer, our lab provided ad-hoc GED tutoring to EOC students in subjects such as Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts. Our approach helps students build confidence and find effective ways to study. We provide a comfortable study environment, establish individual study plans, and mentor students until they are prepared for their exams. Separately, we said goodbye to some of our Part-Time Tutors who are moving onto the University system. We are sad to see them leave but are happy they are continuing on to their Bachelor's degrees!

-June

[To learn more about tutoring click here](#)



WE ARE TRIO

Hours of Operations:  
Monday - Friday : 8:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m  
TRIO Tutoring Lab Fall Hours:  
Mon, Wed, Fri : 8:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m  
Tue, Th : 8:00 am - 7:00 pm  
\*WE ACCEPT STUDENT REFERRALS!

NOTE: 100% OF TRIO'S PROGRAM COSTS ARE FINANCED BY FEDERAL MONEY FUNDING.

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