

6-20-2011

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Recommended Citation

Marquez, Melanie, "Press release : 2011 : 06 : 20 : First-Year Students Join TRiO Summer Learning Community" (2011). *Student Academic Success and Support Services*. 6.
http://digital.usfsp.edu/student_acad_success_support/6

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First-Year Students Join TRIO Summer Learning Community

Posted [June 20, 2011](#) at 4:46 pm by [Melanie Marquez](#)

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ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (June 20, 2011) – The new TRIO Summer Learning Community Program at USF St. Petersburg will bring approximately 40 new first-year students together for a six-week session designed to prepare them to take full advantage of their college experience.

Made possible through the grant-funded TRIO Student Support Services, the Summer Learning Community students are the first in their family to attend college and/or they come from a low-income family as defined by the federal government. As part of a unique Learning Community cohort, many of the students will live together in the residence hall. Learning Community students will all take classes together, participate in cultural events, receive tutoring and mentoring and experience the support programs available at USFSP.

“The camaraderie that is built through this kind of experience helps increase student retention, academic achievement and student involvement,” said Ruby Qin, TRIO director. “These first-year students will develop the personal, academic and social skills necessary for college success.”

The program runs during the Summer B semester, June 27 to August 5.

The students will complete courses in mathematics, English, cultural anthropology, and learning strategies and meet with TRIO advisors to review their academic progress and goals. Weekly workshops will cover time management, study skills, campus resources and financial aid. Social activities will give the students the opportunity to build relationships and connect with the community and university.

“After the summer ends, this cohort will continue to build on their academic and personal success and remain part of TRIO SSS until their degree completion,” Qin said. “The program is committed to providing students with the tools, resources, and mindsets necessary to be successful college students, responsible citizens, and strong leaders.”

TRIO SSS’s mission is to promote academic success, help students reach their academic potential, and to foster an institutional climate supportive of the success of low-income, first generation students. Beyond the TRIO Summer Learning Community, the program supports any USFSP student eligible under the TRIO guidelines.

TRIO is currently accepting applications for the fall semester. Students interested in the TRIO Student Support Services program can visit the TRIO SSS office located in Terrace 302, or they can fill out an online application form on the program website, www.stpete.usf.edu/trio.

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