

# Project Challenge Newsletter

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Emporia State University

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## From the Director's Desk

Dear Participants,

Welcome back to another semester at Emporia state University. I trust all of you had a wonderful break and are now ready to work hard and do well this semester. As a member of Project Challenge you have opportunities and services offered to you that other students don't have so please take advantage of all of them.

If you haven't signed up for tutoring please don't wait any longer; it is to your advantage that you sign up before you get in trouble with a class. If your grades weren't as good as you had expected then by all means don't wait to sign up for tutoring—come to our office as soon as you can!

It is again time to fill out your financial aid forms for 2009-2010 to make sure you get them in by the due date posted by the financial aid office. If you have questions or you need assistance please make an appointment with Kristi or Shanna.

I know if you work hard, use good time management skills, keep up with every class, and use our services you will succeed this semester. Remember this is your future and only you can make your goals a reality.

Warmly,

Trudi Benjamin, Director



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## Scholarships!!

**Trudi R. Benjamin TRIO Scholarship:** A \$200 scholarship will be awarded to a Project Challenge participant with a 2.5 or greater GPA who uses program services and is enrolled full-time. Applications are due February 19 and the scholarship will be awarded at the TRIO Day Luncheon on Friday, February 27. Contact Kristi for an application.

**USA Funds** provides up to \$1,500 for students. Several PC participants have received scholarships from USA Funds in the past. Criteria includes having an annual adjusted gross family income of \$35,000 or less, as documented on a 2008 federal 1040 income tax return on which the applicant is claimed as a federal tax exemption. Application materials and additional Information about the scholarship are both available at <http://www.usafunds.org/scholarship>. We encourage all students to visit the website and see if they are eligible to apply. The application deadline is February 16, 2009.

**Future Teachers Scholarship:** The Kansas PTA is offering scholarships to a Kansas resident student of junior standing, or will obtain junior standing during the first semester the scholarship is received, who shows need for assistance, has high moral and social standards, has minimum 3.0 GPA with the intention of teaching in the schools of Kansas. Additional information and applications available at [www.kansas-pta.org](http://www.kansas-pta.org) or by contacting [ESUScholarships@emporia.edu](mailto:ESUScholarships@emporia.edu). Application deadline is March 15, 2009.

**Susan B. Anthony Scholarship:** Applications are now available for this \$1,200 scholarship, with \$600 being awarded each semester. Any male or female student who best satisfies the following requirements will be considered eligible: 1. has demonstrated the greatest or most beneficial input to the growth and education of women on the ESU campus; 2. has demonstrated excellence in scholarship such as GPA or academic honors; 3. who shows financial need (this carries the least weight in the selection process). Applications are available at the Counseling Center, 211 S. Morse Hall. The deadline for these to be returned is February 19, 2009. The award ceremony will be March 11, 2009.

Check out <http://www.emporia.edu/finaid/scholarships/index2.htm> for additional scholarship opportunities available to Emporia State students.

## Happy-Grams!

Personal letters of congratulations have been sent to the following students so far this semester for outstanding personal or academic accomplishments:

Vanessa Artiga	Adam Galindo	Terrell Matthews	Ashley Rutz
Ashley Brandt	Naomi Gonzalez	Sony McElroy	Cami Shaw
Casi Bruner	Weston Grove	Michelle Nila	Veronica Sotelo
Alice Christian	Delia Guzman	Leah N.	Tyrone Townsend
Kelli Coble	Yasmin Henderson	Maria Peña	Eden Tullis
Krissy Cortez	Tina Herrera	AJ Pence	Ethan Walston
Jill Creager	Geneva Lawrence	Jessica Penn	Jamie Watt
Caitie Edmundson	May Lee	Eduardo Perez	Derrek Zietz
Manuel Estrada-Espinoza	Amy Lemmon	Carlos Pringle	Esenia Zuniga
Hayley Finch	Audanell Lester	Amanda Puhr	
Ilda Flores	Rebecca Libertus	Chelsea Rogers	

## Outstanding Participant

Hey, my name is Geneva Rae Lawrence. I'm from Cottonwood Falls, KS and I'm a freshmen at ESU. I am a secondary education major, majoring in English. I plan to work really hard to make sure my grades stay up. I also have many inspirations, one being my family who is always there to support me. My teachers are always ready to help me when I need the help, and my boyfriend is always there for me no matter what. I hope the rest of my college years are as good as this one.



Geneva Lawrence

## Income Tax Return Assistance

Need help completing your taxes? Free assistance completing income tax returns will be available on Mondays and Thursdays from 2:00-7:00 p.m., from February 2 to April 13 (except the week of spring break), in Cremer Hall Room 320. This assistance is offered on a first-come, first-served basis and there are no appointments. This service is available to any taxpayer whose household income is below \$39,000. Please bring all required documents, such as W-2's and social security received on SSA-1099, as well as your social security card and cards of any dependents when you come. Call (620) 341-5346 if you have questions. Assistance in Spanish will be provided. [This information is from 1/22/09 Buzz-In Announcement.]

## Chi Alpha Corner

Greetings, everyone and welcome back! I hope the semester is off to a good start for all of you. I want to make a few quick announcements to active and incoming members. We have set the dates for our meetings and one is just around the corner! Our first meeting of the year will be on January 29th at 5 pm in room 304 SMH. I would encourage all of you to come as we will be discussing some changes that will effect all of you. Our next meeting will follow the induction of our new members on February 23rd. Please mark your calendars to attend so we can welcome our new members. The next two meetings are as follows:

March 26th at 5pm (we plan to have an ice cream party this night)

April 24th time TBD

I hope to see you all at upcoming events!

## All About TRIO

**On Friday, February 27, ESU will celebrate National TRIO Day. A luncheon will be held in the Kanza Room of the MU and all students are invited to enjoy this lunch free of charge from 11:30-1:00. Watch the mail for more information!**

Our nation has asserted a commitment to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background or economic circumstance.

In support of this commitment, Congress established a series of programs to help low-income Americans enter college, graduate and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life. These Programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are referred to as the TRIO Programs (initially just three programs). While student financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRIO programs help students overcome class, social and cultural barriers to higher education. The federal TRIO Programs are:

- ◆ *Educational Opportunity Centers*: assist displaced or underemployed workers with college selection and financial aid information.
- ◆ *Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Programs*: provide research opportunities and faculty mentors for students preparing for doctoral study.
- ◆ *Student Support Services*: assists undergraduates in college persistence through tutoring, counseling, and a myriad of academic services.
- ◆ *Talent Search*: provides students in grades six through twelve with guidance and information about college admission and financial aid.
- ◆ *Upward Bound*: helps high school students prepare for college by providing tutoring and enrichment activities after school, on Saturdays, and during a six-week summer experience on a college campus.
- ◆ *Upward Bound Math Science*: helps high school students strengthen math and science skills to prepare for careers in these areas.
- ◆ *Veterans Upward Bound*: provides skill development and resource information to veterans to help them transition to college.

As mandated by Congress, two-thirds of the students served must come from families with incomes under \$30,975, where neither parent graduated from college. Over 2,800 TRIO Programs currently serve nearly one million low-income Americans at over 1,000 institutions of higher education across the country. Many programs serve students in grades six through twelve. Thirty-seven percent of TRIO students are Whites, 35% are African-Americans, 19% are Hispanics, 4% are Native Americans, 4% are Asian-Americans, and 1% are listed as "Other," including multiracial students. Twenty-two thousand students with disabilities and more than 25,000 U.S. veterans are currently enrolled in the TRIO Programs as well.

Studies have shown that students in the Upward Bound program are four times more likely to earn an undergraduate degree than those students from similar backgrounds who did not participate in TRIO. Students in the TRIO Student Support Services program are more than twice as likely to remain in college than those students from similar backgrounds who did not participate in the program.

Emporia State University is the host institution for four TRIO programs:

- ◆ **Student Support Services-Project Challenge**: first funded in 1984 and serves 165 undergraduates.
- ◆ **Talent Search**: serves 600 middle- and high school students and dropouts in Emporia and northeast Kansas.
- ◆ **Upward Bound-Project Focus**: serves 85 students in northeast Kansas and northwest Missouri.
- ◆ **Upward Bound-Project Success**: serves 50 students in Emporia and surrounding communities.

Much of this information was obtained from <http://www.coenet.us/abouttrio.html>