

Student Support Services

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

PUSHING LIMITS

The first Saturday in March was a beautiful day for us to spend outdoors with our students and the Arkansas 4H ExCEL Program in Little Rock. We engaged in several team-building activities throughout the morning to develop strategies that would help us with a high-ropes course later in the afternoon. We also had an impromptu canoeing experience, which was a first-time opportunity for most of us. While we all had a fun time playing outside, the greatest take-away was the internal shift that took place within each participant. Every student explored space outside of his or her comfort zone. For some, it was the high level of interaction with peers and contributing ideas and support toward the group. For others, it was pushing physical and mental limits to conquer challenges 30-feet off the ground. Experiences like this motivate students to overcome obstacles in college and in life.

SSS SUPPORTS STUDENTS DURING THE COVID-19 QUARANTINE

The SSS office in Brown 345 is like a second home for many of our participants--not just in time spent but in the family atmosphere cultivated within the space. Our challenge has been to extend this sense of security, belonging and support to students when our physical space became unavailable during the COVID-19 pandemic. We immediately reached out to students to help tackle technical hurdles and connect to resources. The transition of our services to an onine-only platform has been relatively seamless as our students were already familiar with our Blackboard presence, which is stocked with resources for academic and professional development. We organized asynchronous virtual workshops to engage students in academic skills development and financial literacy. We maintained access to students through phone calls, emails, and video conferencing. Despite the new territory, we are proud of the work we do to help students succeed.

TRIO ALUMNA IN 2019 PARAPAN AMERICAN GAMES

Kaitlin Bounds, an alumna of our very first TRIO SSS cohort, was selected as a member of Team USA for the fall 2019 Parapan American Games track and field competition in Lima, Peru. Bounds was diagnosed with autism at age 4 and has overcome many obstacles in her life, including earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from ATU in 2014. She was an accomplished member of the cross country program at Tech and continues to build her athletic career as a paralympian. She and her family continue to stay in touch with SSS to share her journey.



CHECK OUT OUR SPRING 2020 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

These numbers reflect our participants' academic accomplishments before the Pass/No Credit Option.

50 Participants on the Dean's List

25 Earned a 4.0 for the spring term

2019-20 Average GPA is **3.208**



Matti Ibrahim

LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM AN SSS GRADUATE

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Lori, Lindsey, and Nichole for their support in helping me to focus on my goal of graduating. With the help of Student Support Services, I was not only able to get the tutoring I needed but moral support as well. Two years ago, I was struggling to organize my thoughts to put my ideas on paper for a research class. With a lot of tutoring and moral support from the wonderful staff at SSS, that research paper turned into three conference presentations. I'm even on Google Scholar! Lori attentively listened to my practice presentations, giving me much needed encouragement and helpful techniques. It made me feel so good to see Lori in the audience as I presented my first research presentation at a conference in the education department at Tech. Since then, I have submitted two more IRBs, and two more research projects are underway. I have been accepted to graduate school and begin graduate classes on May 11. I am grateful beyond words and will miss Lori, Nichole, and Lindsey very much! The services that SSS provides to students is so valuable and so needed. Thank you again for all that you do! - Matti Ibrahim, Spring 2020 Grad

ATU FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO SSS PARTICIPANTS

The Arkansas Tech University Foundation receives private gifts through various giving programs and then administers those funds to benefit students at ATU. SSS urges all of our participants to submit applications for Foundation scholarships, and we help many students individually in preparing their applications. The following SSS participants have benefitted from Foundation Scholarships in the 2019-20 year.

Ty Archer	Anabel Galvan	Shynece Scott
Faith Bratton	Tashalla Gomillion	Ely Soto
Calysta Brown	Ashley Green	Da'Shayla Tabron
Chris Caballero	Rosa Gutierrez	Elvis Tapia
Cannon Cobb	Brittini Jackson	Baylee Tims
Donte Eichenberger	KaSee Moua	Susana Torres-Lucero
Courtney Freeman	Russell Murdock	Zariya Williams
	Noelia Romero-Lopez	

STUDENT AWARDS, RECOGNITION, & ACHIEVEMENTS

Mayenssi Montiel completed the Elevate program through Career Services.

Daniel Childers is a founding executive board member for a local nonprofit and he was named 2019 Arkansas Hospice Volunteer of Year.

LaBrian Phillips was elected 20-21 SAB Signature Events Chair

Milisa Montgomery was awarded a scholarship from Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) Sisterhood.

Joseph Campbell, SSS alum, and **Michelle Howe**, graduating senior, were both accepted to University of Arkansas Graduate College for the Master of Science Counselor Education and Supervision program. Joseph will study school counseling and Michelle will study mental Health Counseling.

Elvis Tapia and Elmer Evangelista are recipients of LULAC Scholarships

The 2019-20 Presidential Leadership Cabinet includes four women from SSS: **Maliya Johnson**, **Mayenssi Montiel**, **Wendy Sierra**, **Da'Shayla Tabron**, and a special spring freshman invitation and acceptance for **Kaylee Freeman**.