

Women of Excellence Giving Circle Grant Application

TRiO, Student Support Services Enrichment Xcursions

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TRiO, Student Support Services Enrichment Xcursions

Amount Requested: \$7700.00

Abstract:

The mission of the TRiO, Student Support Services (SSS) program is: TRiO, SSS is committed to providing an academic, professional, financial and personal support system that guides student participants to benefit from educational opportunities and achieve a greater quality of life. In line with our mission, the TRiO, SSS Enrichment Xcursions will focus on academic, professional and personal development. The academic development component will help students understand their strengths in order to improve their academic performance through taking the StrengthsQuest assessment and receiving training. The professional development component will expose students to graduate school options and help them make the best educational choices for their future in order to be more employable. The personal development component will introduce the students to cultural experiences that they may not otherwise have access to.

TRiO, Student Support Services Enrichment Xcursions

Budget:

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT	EXPENSES
StrengthsQuest Codes & Training – 50 @ \$30	\$1500.00
Meals – 2 sessions x 25 participants @ \$10	\$500.00
SUBTOTAL ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$2000.00

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	EXPENSES
Transportation – 1Graduate School Xcursion per semester x1 van @ \$150 + gas	\$600.00
Meals - 1 Graduate School Xcursion per semester 2days of per diem @ \$50 x 10 students and 2 staff	\$2400.00
Lodging - 1Graduate School Xcursion per semester x 1 night @ \$175 x 4 rooms	\$1400.00
SUBTOTAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	\$4400.00

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	EXPENSES
Transportation – 1Cultural Xcursion per semester x1 van @ \$75 + gas	\$200.00
Meals - 1 Cultural Xcursion per semester @ \$25 x 10 students and 1 staff	\$550.00
Tickets - 1 Cultural Xcursion per semester @ \$25 x 10 students and 1 staff	\$550.00
SUBTOTAL PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	\$1300.00

TOTAL TRiO, SSS ENRICHMENT XCURSIONS	\$7700.00
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RATIONALIZATION FOR FOOD EXPENSES:

- TRiO, SSS serves first generation and low income students. These students often do not have the funds or the opportunities to be able afford or attend events that go beyond their daily means.
- For the 2011-2012 year, the TRiO, SSS budget was cut 3.1 % and is going to be level-funded for the 2012-2013 year, which inhibits the program to be able to sponsor these opportunities.

Narrative:

How does this proposed project enhance the mission and purpose of the Women of Excellence Giving Circle?

TRiO, Student Support Services serves 160 first generation and low-income students and students with disabilities. Based on the current demographic information, of the 160 students served, 69% are females. The TRiO, SSS Enrichment Xcursions will allow these students to develop academically, professionally, and personally in order to better understand themselves, become strong leaders at Xavier University, and become better citizens.

How will this project further the mission of Xavier University to “engage and form students intellectually, morally and spiritually, with rigor and compassion, toward lives of solidarity, service and success?”

The TRiO, SSS Enrichment Xcursions will address development of the whole person and cura personalis. The Xcursions promote and encourage self-awareness in order for the students to achieve a greater quality of life. Due to TRiO, SSS students being from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds, their involvement in these Xcursions provide opportunities for their individual growth in order for them to give back to others. These opportunities will empower students to see their own potential and make their contribution to society.

Why is this project important? Does it address a gap within existing University programs?

TRiO, SSS students often come to Xavier unprepared academically, professionally, and personally and are in need of these skills to be successful at the college level. The acquisition of these skills increases their confidence and the likelihood of remaining at Xavier University. The TRiO, SSS Enrichment Xcursions will provide the exposure and knowledge necessary to develop these skills.

The academic skills gained through the StrengthsQuest assessment and training will teach students about how their strengths can be utilized to improve their academic performance. Being more knowledgeable about their strengths will empower the students to interact more with their peers, faculty, and staff in regards to their academics.

The professional skills gained through the graduate school Xcursions will provide the students with practical information to facilitate the decision making process about their life after graduation. Through their participation, students will be able to network with professionals and peers in potential fields of study. Also, the opportunity will enable students to pursue these future goals on their own.

The personal skills gained through the cultural Xcursions will allow the students to develop and practice their interpersonal skills. Through their participation, students will be able to navigate effectively in unfamiliar settings and situations. In the future, the students will be more prepared to take on the unknown.

What is the expected outcome of your project? How many people (faculty, staff, students) will be engaged in your project?

The expected outcomes of the TRiO, SSS Enrichment Xcursions will be for the student participants to be in good academic standing and persist to graduation, to be employable, and to have a greater sense of self in order to achieve a greater quality of life. The maximum number of students who will benefit from the Enrichment Xcursions will be 90 (with the understanding that there may be some overlap of students who take advantage of multiple opportunities). The TRiO, SSS staff (4) will be involved throughout the Xcursions. In addition, two staff members for StrengthsQuest training will be involved with the academic component. An unknown number of faculty from other universities will be involved with the graduate school visits.

How will you measure the success of your project, if funded? What are the qualitative and quantitative measures that you will use to assess impact and effectiveness?

TRiO, SSS will measure the success of the TRiO, SSS Enrichment Xcursions academic component first by having students complete a program evaluation directly after the training. The evaluation will request feedback on the quality of program, what they learned during the process, as well as how they plan to incorporate the information into their academic action plan. As a follow up to the direct training, students will meet with their counselors one-on-one to discuss how they can utilize their strengths to achieve their academic goals.

TRiO, SSS will measure the success of the professional component through formal written evaluations, group reflection during the graduate school trips, and follow up discussions in one-on-one meetings with their counselors after the conclusion of the Xcursion. Also, in the one-on-one meetings, the student and counselor will reevaluate their professional goals. For the seniors in attendance, TRiO, SSS staff will compare the number of students who went on the Xcursion to the number who applied and matriculated into a graduate or professional school program.

TRiO, SSS will measure the success of the personal component through group reflection during and immediately following the Xcursion. During the student's next one-on-one meeting with their counselor, there will be a follow up discussion on the event and how what they learned might help them to accomplish their personal goals.

TRiO, SSS will utilize students' end of year evaluation of the TRiO, SSS program, as well as their end of year reflections based on their academic, professional, and personal goals to measure the impact and effectiveness.

If your project is funded, how will the WOX Giving Circle be recognized as having played a role in the success/completion of your project? Give specific examples.

If funded, WOX Giving Circle will be included in all of the promotional materials including weekly e-mails, monthly newsletters, and flyers. At each event, WOX Giving Circle will also be credited for making the events possible. In addition, we would like to obtain any WOX Giving Circle literature to have available within our office and at the events. We would also welcome WOX Giving Circle staff to address our students during regularly scheduled workshops and events throughout the year.