“It is when we forget ourselves that we do things that will be remembered.” Unknown

The TRiO Project Threshold–Student Support Services program has truly been fortunate for 35 years to provide a noble service within the University of Oklahoma campus community. This year, we witnessed immense success in retaining 80% of our participant population, and graduating 50 students from the 2005–2006 class which speaks well for the program and validates the academic need for the supplemental assistance that Student Support Services programs provide. As will be the case for all of our newsletters, we take great pride in showcasing the commitment and perseverance demonstrated, and the honors achieved by our first-generation, economically disadvantaged, and/or disabled students. This is ultimately what speaks the loudest as to how strategically designed supplemental services can positively enhance the higher education experience for students in this target group.

Maintaining excellent service is essential in every provision Project Threshold affords its participants. However, we would be remiss to discuss the concept of noble service in this newsletter if we failed to recognize the tremendous sacrifices that some of our participants, who are also dedicated members of the United States Armed Forces, have provided in numerous ways to this country in order to fulfill their military commitments during times of war and natural catastrophic events.

Juan Arias-Feo is an example of how noble service is performed despite the personal sacrifices incurred. Juan had to withdraw from two semesters due to deployments respectively in Kuwait and Louisiana due to Hurricane Katrina. He began the Spring 2007 semester two weeks late due to training in preparation for a second deployment to Iraq. Upon his return, he not only managed to catch up, but complete the semester with outstanding academic achievements.

We gratefully express a sincere “thank you” especially to our students in the military for allowing Project Threshold the opportunity to play a small role in a life demonstrative of a NOBLE SERVICE!

Sherry D. Williams

Project Threshold – Student Support Services had the distinct honor of having one of our alumni named as a 2006 National TRiO Achiever Award winner!

Sherry D. Williams (B.A., 1992) was honored along with five other TRiO alumni selected from over 40 exceptionally competitive submissions across the country during a luncheon on September 7, 2006 in New York, New York. Sherry graduated from the University of Miami School of Law with a Juris Doctorate in 1995, and is now employed as Senior Vice-President and Corporate Secretary for Halliburton Company.

During her address to the luncheon attendees Sherry stated “I am proud of many things I have accomplished, I am proud of the fact that I could come from the wrong side of the tracks and defy great odds to matriculate through a great university, earn a law degree, and work as a respected attorney in the 36th largest law firm [Kirkpatrick & Lockhart LLP] in the United States. However, I am most proud that I have taken the torch of commitment, support, honesty, excellence, and community service that was passed to me by Project Threshold and have used it as a beacon of light for many other equally dedicated, qualified and deserving young people who have gone on to make their families and communities proud, in the same way that I did mine.”
Congratulations go out to Candice Price who was honored as a 2006 Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP) scholarship recipient! Candice is an African & African-American Studies Major who is simultaneously working towards a mechanical engineering degree. She has served as president, or chaired numerous campus and community organizations during her enrollment at the university, and juggles all of this along with her role as mommy to 5 year old Sha’lise.

Anayeli Herrera-Morales was honored as the 2007 Patricio Gimeno Memorial Award recipient at the annual Modern Languages, Literatures and Linguistics reception. This little dynamo is pursuing a degree in Spanish and a minor in Italian, in addition to obtaining the pre-requisites to apply to medical school. She is also extremely active in several campus and community organizations.

Family of TRiO Honorees!

What a pleasure it was to attend the 2007 Annual Latino Achievement & Heritage Celebration and to hear the names called of one of our entire family of Threshold participants. Armando Herrera-Morales, who will graduate this summer with a degree in Spanish, a minor in microbiology, and the prerequisites needed to apply for medical school, was honored with an Outstanding Graduating Senior Award and an Academic Recognition Award. His sister Angelica Herrera-Morales, who is pursuing a degree in microbiology, a minor in Spanish, and the prerequisites needed to apply for nursing school, was awarded with an Academic Recognition Award. Little sister Anayeli Herrera-Morales, was also honored with an Academic Recognition Award. The Academic Recognition Awards are presented to students who have a combined grade point average of 3.0 to 4.0.

Newly Elected M.A.P.S. President is Threshold Participant!

Project Threshold is pleased to announce that the Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (M.A.P.S.) recently elected Erin Jackson as their President for the 2007-2008 academic year. M.A.P.S. embodies all health majors and provides networking opportunities both on and off-campus for minority students pursuing an array of health career prerequisites or degree programs prior to making application to the health career program of their choice. She is pursuing a Health Exercise Science degree and plans to attend medical school following graduation. Erin was also awarded with an Academic Recognition Award at the Annual African-American Awards program held this spring.

Congratulations McNair Graduates!

Two of Project Threshold’s participants, who were also selected as TRiO program Ronald E. McNair Scholars, were honored as graduating scholars during the 2007 McNair Scholars Spring Achievement Banquet. Felix De La Cruz graduated this spring with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and has been accepted into the OU Mechanical Engineering Graduate Degree program where he will begin his studies this fall. Ephraim Jobickson graduated this spring with a degree in Health & Exercise Science. He was selected as a resident advisor for the 2005-2006 academic year and received numerous honors and awards while also serving on several campus committees. Ephraim has also been accepted into the OU School of Pharmacy where he will begin his studies in the fall. Raja’ee Fatihah was recognized at the banquet as a 2007-2008 continuing McNair Scholar recipient.

Adam Pinkney is a native of McAlester, OK and a graduate of McAlester High School. Adam is a Journalism major with a double minor in Film & Video Studies, and African & African-American Studies. He participates in numerous campus activities and was selected by University College to serve as a Teaching Assistant for their Gateway to College Learning course, and as one of their student enrollment guides for the 2007 Freshmen Orientation program. Most notably, Adam has been selected as a 2007-2008 McNair Scholar recipient.