

Golden Bear Ready!

Student Support Services

Vol. 1 Issue 1 Summer 2015

SSS Enriches the WVU Tech Student Experience

via WVU Tech University Relations

The Student Support Services (SSS) program, a federal TRIO program funded by the United States Department of Education, has been enhancing the student experience at WVU Tech since 1971, making it one of the oldest programs of its kind in the nation.

Known for their tutoring services, professional and academic development programs, free printing and computer lab, the program is dedicated to helping students navigate college life in and out of the classroom. Student Support Services Director Scott Robertson says the program is working, and the statistics back him up.

Each year, the program provides an annual performance report to the US Department of Education detailing program success factors such as graduation rates and academic standing. When the current operating grant was approved in 2009, the program was required to maintain a persistence rate (year-to-year program retention) of 65%, a 40% graduation rate for students who entered college in the 2008-2009 academic year, and a 65% rate of students in good academic standing.

In this year's report, the program shared information on more than 500 program students from the last six years, coming in well above those thresholds and boasting a 46% graduation rate, a 90% program persistence rate and an impressive 92% of program students in good academic standing.

"Those are pretty phenomenal numbers for our program and they show that Student Support Services is doing exactly what it is supposed to be doing. It's helping students," said Robertson. Robertson, a program alumnus himself, attributes much of this success to SSS's robust tutoring and advising efforts. Students in the program meet with staff counselors once a month to make sure that things are going well, and students have access to a wide range of subjects in which to receive tutoring.

"If it weren't for the program, I wouldn't have the college degrees I have now. So, for me personally, it's very important that we offer these services. We've seen students who have so much potential and we're here to help pull that potential out in order to see that they are successful not just within our program, but also at WVU Tech."

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College of Engineering and Sciences Recognizes Outstanding STEM Students

via WVU Tech University Relations

On Tuesday, April 21, more than 150 students, staff, faculty and family members gathered in the WVU Tech Ballroom for the 18th annual STEM Awards Banquet. At this year's event, more than 40 students were recognized for their academic work as well as their involvement in student organizations.

"This is a group of students who are very bright and very committed to their academic pursuits, the research they undertake and the student organizations they devote their time to," said Dr. Zeljko "Z" Torbica, dean of the Leonard C. Nelson College of Engineering and Sciences at WVU Tech. "They have consistently exceeded expectations throughout the year and we honor them for both their work and for the way their efforts help to define the unique culture of the engineering and science programs at WVU Tech." The following SSS participants were recognized at the event:

Biology

John Swain – Biology Research Award

Chemical Engineering

Angel Thompson – AIChE Leadership Award for outstanding service to the student chapter

Chemistry

John Swain – Outstanding Research Achievement Award

Civil Engineering

Taofik Mudasiru – Outstanding Civil Engineering Sophomore Award

Electrical and Computer Engineering

Joseph Ferguson – Outstanding Electrical Engineering Student Award

William Higginbotham – Outstanding Electrical Engineering Student Award

Engineering Technology

Daniel Hull – For Contributions to the Engineering Technology Department

Mechanical Engineering

Tavon Johnson – Leadership in Organizing LCNCES Engineering Design Exposition and Technical Conference



William
Higginbotham



Angel Thompson



Taofik Mudasiru



Tavon Johnson

SGA and Dean of Students Honor Outstanding Students

via WVU Tech University Relations

The WVU Tech Student Government Association hosted its last meeting of the 2014-2015 academic year on Tuesday, April 28 to wrap up the year's business and thank the 2014-2015 officers for their work.

"We're proud to mark another successful year of fulfilling our commitment to student leadership opportunities and engaging student activities, and are grateful for the work of student leaders in SGA and other campus student organizations," said Dean of Students Richard Carpinelli.

The meeting also saw the swearing in of new officers to serve in the 2015-2016 academic year, including Student Support Services participants Janet Cunningham as Vice President and Tavon Johnson, Shella (Gabby) Kelley, Lesli Taylor and Jacob Lovejoy as senators.

Afterward, the Dean and the SGA recognized Brittany Doran with the Outstanding Student Leader Award for her work with the SGA and the student body. "The outstanding students, faculty and staff honored at the leadership recognition ceremony were selected for their leadership, dedication to student life and their unwavering pride in what it means to be a member of the WVU Tech community," he said.



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Athletic Coaching Education major Alex Moore has been in the program for two semesters. He said the program gives members an invaluable boost. "The program gives first-generation students and those who statistically may not be destined for college a leg up. It helps students strive for excellence in academics. It helps them financially and, in some cases, it just gives them someone to talk to about whatever they need," he said. The program also provides scholarships for qualifying students, and awarded 19 scholarships totaling more than \$26,000 for the spring 2015 semester alone.

Beyond academics, the program offers a number of cultural enrichment and professional development opportunities. On February 4, the program took 26 students to Charleston for a night of exposure to Asian culture and cuisine. The group attended Shen Yu – a live performance portraying traditional Chinese culture through music and dance – at the Clay Center for the arts. "Our cultural enrichment programs are an important part of our holistic approach to student success," said Robertson. "Seeing Shen Yu was an experience these students will not soon forget. These events allow students to realize that a degree affords them the opportunity to continue doing those things down the road."

In addition to cultural activities, the program will host a number of professional/personal development seminars this spring, including workshops on time management and maintaining healthy relationships, as well as a financial aid "boot camp" where students who answer questions incorrectly will have to perform physical exercises.

Robertson said these activities and the SSS's open-door policy creates a space where program students can support one another as they work toward common goals. "We've seen a lot of friendships being built, even with students who are commuters," he said. "We're creating a community within the program and within our office. We have people from all over the world and all walks of life. It's great to see these students interacting and helping one another."

WVU Tech Dean's List

The following students earned a 3.25 grade point average (GPA) or higher during the Fall 2014 and/or Spring 2015 semesters in their respective coursework. We are very proud of their accomplishments!

Fall 2014

Kaleb Acree	Brittany Doran	KyAnne Holman	Samuel Stone
Lawrence Allphin	Cathy Estes-Zones	Zachary Hornsby	John Swain
Chelcee Amos	Joseph Ferguson	Daniel Hull	Lesli Taylor
Angelica Arellano	Drew Fields	Christopher Ingram	Adam Teator
Zachary Armstead	Aquila Fox	Brandy Jarvis	Suman Thapa
Marcella Baisden	Victor Garcia	Tavon Johnson	Angel Thompson
Johnathon Ballard	Hunter Gray	Shella Kelley	Genna Trippett
Megan Blythe	Gracyn Grubb	Jacob Lovejoy	Sarah Waldeck
Ashley Boggs	Taylor Hager	DeAnna Lucas	Brianna Whaley
Tori Bragg	Allison Hall	Allison Morris	Shannon Wiercioch
Andrew Brenner	William Hamrick	Nia Nolan	Rodney Wills
Jonathan Clark	Sheng Han	Estefania Ortiz	RoChe Wimberly
Kelley Coleman	Eddie Harris	Michael Sansone	Amy Young
Thomas Dodd	William Higginbotham	Crystal Spurlock	

Spring 2015

Kaleb Acree	Hunter Gray	Joshua McCoy	Samuel Stone
Courtney Adkins	Taylor Hager	Hunter Moles	Scotty Stone
Brittney Alcorn	William Higginbotham	Allison Morris	John Swain
Lawrence Allphin	Jonathan Holcomb	Nia Nolan	Shelby Swiney
Angelica Arellano	KyAnee Holman	Nathaniel Nottingham	Lesli Taylor
Daniel Beverly	Daniel Hull	Mohamed Noufal	Adam Teator
Tori Bragg	Brandy Jarvis	Nicole Pennington	Suman Thapa
Andrew Brenner	Christopher Jenkins	John Perrow	Angel Thompson
Roger Bright	Tavon Johnson	Michael Perrow	Genna Trippett
Michele Carena	Shella Kelley	Matthew Pittman	James Waldeck
Kelley Coleman	Ra'Shaud Kincaid	Liz Pressman	Sarah Waldeck
Patric Devereaux	Joshua Kinsel	Fernando Rivero	Brianna Whaley
Brittany Doran	Amber Linville	Colton Rowe	Shannon Wierioch
Joseph Ferguson	Jacob Lovejoy	Kimberly Rush	
Drew Fields	Olivia Mantohbang	Gurdir Singh	
Rubhi Garcia	Jacob Marshall	Crystal Spurlock	

SSS Graduates

The following students were received their diplomas during the 2015 Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 9, 2015 in the Neal D. Baisi Athletic Center on the Tech Campus.

Leonard C. Nelson College of Engineering and Sciences

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree

Chemical Engineering

John Swain
Angel Thompson

Civil Engineering

Kaleb Acree
Andrew Brenner
Brittany Doran
Michael Perrow

Electrical Engineering

Drew Fields
William Higginbotham
Josh McCoy

Mechanical Engineering

Thy Dinh
Garron Ross

Engineering Technology/Civil Emphasis

Jonathon Clark
Daniel Hull
Amy Young

Biology

Emily Geldbach
John Swain

Information Systems

Patric Devereaux

College of Business, Humanities and Social Sciences

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree

Regents

Jonathan Ballard
Floyd Campbell
Terrale Clark
Jermaine Gadson
Christopher Inghram
Mashya White
RoChe' Wimberly
Rebecca Yost

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree

Forensic Investigation

Brittney Alcorn

Health Services Administration

Jennifer Gill
John Perrow

West Virginia University

College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree

Sport Management

Aquila Fox

Athletic Coaching Education

Craig Moore
Nia Nolan

West Virginia University

School of Nursing

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree

KyAnne Holman
Brandy Jarvis
Christopher Jenkins
Deanna Lucas
Nicole Pennington

WVU Tech Sibling Soccer Players Graduate

by Kitty Palausky, SSS Counselor

Enthusiastic WVU Tech Soccer Players and brothers Michael and John “Benji” Perrow graduated from WVU Tech on May 9, 2015 and have very different career goals. Michael earned his Bachelors of Science degree in Civil Engineering and already has a job and hopes to work in Colombia. Benji graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Health Service Administration and is now pursuing a degree in nursing. Benji still lives in Montgomery.



The Perrow family lives in Colombia, where their parents, Bill and Wanda, are missionaries. Bill’s home church is Perrow Church in Cross Lanes. Bill grew up here and the family has a home here.

Wanda is from Puerto Rico, and together Bill and Wanda founded and direct Open Arms Foundation on the outskirts of Medellin, a large city in Colombia. The Perrow’s have two other children. Marcos went to Marshall University in Huntington, WV and Clara is in elementary school.

Another important piece of this story is that Dr. Jan Rezek, Director of Social Sciences and Public Administration here at WVU Tech helped recruit the brothers to Tech. This happened because Dr. Rezek spent parts of over fifteen summers in Columbia doing missionary work with Michael and Benji’s parents.



Dan Hull poses with his daughter and granddaughter following commencement ceremonies on May 9, 2015.



Eddie Harris received the Presidential Leadership Award from the College of Business, Humanities and Social Sciences at WVU Tech’s Commencement on May 9, 2015.

Chris Jenkins (left) poses with his diploma and SSS Counselor, Kitty Palausky following commencement.



Phil Redden, SSS Math Tutor, poses with newly minted WVU Tech graduate Angel Thompson.



College of Engineering Hosts Student Design Exposition

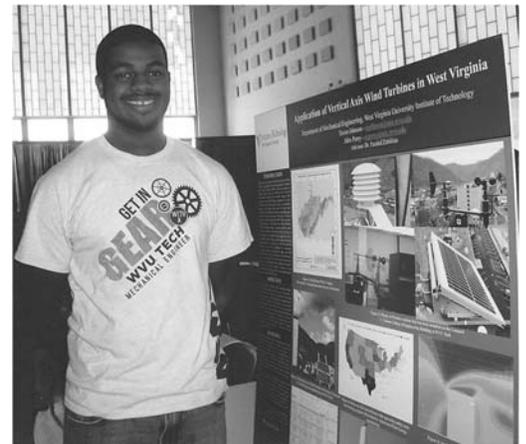
Article provided by WVU Tech University Relations

On Thursday, April 23, more than 20 teams of WVU Tech engineering students showcased a variety of design projects during the first WVU Tech College of Engineering Design Exposition.

The expo featured class and senior capstone projects – some of them more than a year in the making – from mechanical, chemical, electrical and civil engineering students. Attendees were able to visit poster displays and discuss project plans, models or prototypes with exhibitors.

Dr. Farshid Zabihian, the expo's organizer and assistant professor in the WVU Tech Department of Mechanical Engineering, said that the goal of the exposition was to recognize students for the time and work they put into these important projects that often serve as the culmination of an engineering student's undergraduate career.

"Many of our students are doing very good work that goes beyond expectations for a student capstone project. Outside of the classroom, many of these projects are unnoticed," he said.



Tavon Johnson stands with his project "Application of Vertical Axis Wind Turbines in West Virginia"



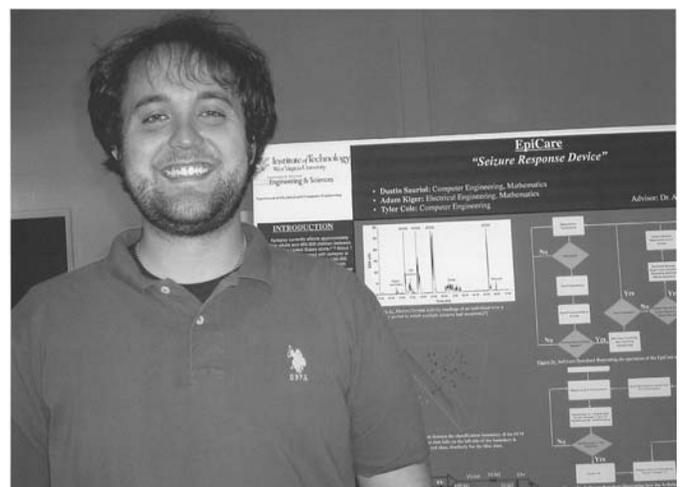
Jarrod Higginbotham, Josh McCoy and Drew Fields (left to right) display their project, "Self-Sustaining Smart Greenhouse" during the expo.

"Another part of this is generational. Freshmen, sophomore and junior students have an opportunity to visit this expo to see what others are doing, hopefully get inspired, make more informed decisions and prepare themselves for the topics they find interesting," he said.

Dr. Zabihian said that he hopes to continue the expo on an annual basis and incorporate more elements, such as high school visits and award categories, into future expositions.

The exposition was hosted by the WVU Tech Department of Mechanical Engineering and coordinated by students Raul Torres and SSS participant, Tavon Johnson.

Adam Kiger with his project entitled "EpiCare: Seizure Response Device"



Women on the Move

By Kitty Palausky, SSS Counselor

When the Junior League of Charleston hosted its second annual Women on the Move event on May 5th, WVU Tech students and faculty attended a panel discussion about STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Technology and Mathematics) curricula. Two of the event attendees, Brittany Doran and Jolita Dural, have been active with Student Support Services during their time at WVU Tech.



Hunter Moles shows off the door prize he won while attending the SSS co-sponsored performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" by the Charleston Light Opera Guild during the fall semester.

Renter's Insurance - Better Safe Than Sorry

by Scott Robertson, SSS Director

Whether you are living on campus this fall or in an apartment, the SSS office would recommend that you seek out renter's insurance for your belongings. If your parents or guardians have a home insurance policy, have them check into renter's insurance for you. In many cases, the additional insurance will run anywhere from \$10-\$20 but the added piece of mind will be worth it in case something were to happen to your belongings.

I lost a majority of my belongings in an apartment fire in 2007 and did not have renter's insurance. Thankfully I was able to bounce back with support from family and friends. However, I would recommend that you look into renter's insurance for your piece of mind. As we saw at the end of the spring semester when three recent Tech graduates lost everything in an apartment fire in Montgomery, we never know what can happen.

TRIO

To stay up to date on what is going on in the SSS office, make sure you follow us online!



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