

TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

THE SCORE

SUCCESS, CHALLENGE, OPPORTUNITY,
AND RESPONSIBILITY IN EDUCATION

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2009

TRIO PARTICIPANT RECOGNIZES DR. DONALD AUGER

BY LAURIE K. JOHNSON,
RETENTION ADVISOR

TRiO Student Support Services created the Students' Choice Award to recognize the exceptional efforts that SDSU faculty and staff put forth so our students can succeed. This semester's recipient is Dr. Donald Auger.

Dr. Auger is an Associate Professor with the Department of Microbiology and teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in the area of Genetics and Cellular Biology. His nominating student writes: *"As a professor and an advisor, he is a motivator, he is caring and he is also full of good advice. Dr. Auger always makes time to listen to my questions and does his best to help. He motivates me by setting high expectations and helps me to fulfill those expectations. Aside from contributing to my academic success, he is also a very enjoyable and positive person to talk to."*

Dr. Auger values teaching at the university level because he enjoys engaging students in their own personal learning and his teaching philosophy emphasizes that each student is his or her own most important teacher. He states, *"I see my job as being something of a coach. I attempt to interpret concepts in order to convince the student that they are understandable. And I attempt to motivate the student that the information we cover in class is worthy*

of their efforts."

But academics were not always such a fundamental part of his work. Upon graduation from St. John's University in Minnesota, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, Dr. Auger worked for the government (Social Security Administration) and lived in the beautiful northern Minnesota for several years. Life was good; the job was good, but he eventually gave up the standard work week, relaxing weekends, and potential easy retirement, for the opportunity to truly become engaged in academics.

He has never regretted his decision to return to the challenge of higher education. Dr. Auger completed in Ph.D. in Biology from the University of North Dakota in 1995. He describes his present career as engaging, challenging and enjoyable. *"I am a maize geneticist, not to be confused with a corn breeder. I study basic science, using maize (corn) as a model organism, and focus mostly on chromosome behavior and the consequences of chromosome misbehavior."* Dr. Auger continues to be actively involved in research and publishing and has completed Post-Doctoral work at the University of Missouri. He is currently collaborating with several scientists from around the country on a project to obtain and perpetuate a class of mutations in plants that are normally lost between meiosis and fertilization.

Dr. Auger's advice to college students trying to succeed is simply to: *"Control your culture. If you surround yourself with people for whom edu-*

**"I care not
what others
think of
what I do,
but I care
very much
about what I think
of what I do. That is
character!"**



-Teddy Roosevelt

Top 10 Reasons to Get Involved in TRiO ~by TRiO SSS Peer Mentors

10. Encourages Campus Involvement
 9. Improves Access to Resources
 8. Builds Leadership Skills
 7. Fun Social Events
 6. Great Networking Opportunities
 5. Provides Job Opportunities and Great References
 4. Develops Academic Skills
 3. Provides a Caring Support System
 2. Promotes Cultural Awareness
- And the top, number one reason to get involved with TRiO
- #1 Endless Opportunity to Maximize Your Potential**

cation is not really important, it makes it that much harder. If instead you are surrounded by people who are dedicated to higher goals, you will find it easier to find the motivation to do hard things."

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Don Auger, our spring 2009 TRiO Students' Choice Award winner! We thank him for "surrounding" all SDSU students with motivation and support.

THE TRIO ACHIEVER SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON KATIE GILLASPIE

BY KAYTE HAGGERTY,
RETENTION ADVISOR

The spring 2009 TRiO Achiever is Katie Gillaspie. Katie is a senior Sociology major/Criminal Justice minor from Wessington, SD. Although Katie will graduate in December 2009, her college journey has been a challenge. As a first-generation college student she chose to attend SDSU because her brother was here and it is close to home. She began college in the fall of 2005 and soon became pregnant. With her daughter, Chloe, being born her grades suffered for the next couple of semesters as she was learning how to be a young, single mother and student.

Since joining the TRiO SSS program in the fall of 2007, Katie's

grades have dramatically gone up. Katie learned that she needed to make school a priority. She learned the hard way that class attendance is important, along with being organized and using a planner. Her advice to other students is, "You HAVE to go to class- it DOES make a big difference." With her many improved study skills Katie is hoping to get on the Dean's List this semester!

As a participant in the TRiO SSS program, Katie appreciates the support system and helpful workshops. She has taken advantage of the tutoring services and attends various TRiO social events with Chloe. Katie is also thankful for the three TRiO scholarships that she has earned.

In her spare time Katie likes to



Katie Gillaspie and her daughter Chloe

read, spend time with her family, and of course spend time with Chloe in which Katie says, "She's pretty entertaining most of the time." Katie wanted to leave us with the following message: "Life is unexpected and you have to make the most of it."

Please join the TRiO SSS staff in congratulating Katie on all of her accomplishments and in wishing her great success in the future!

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

Of course, you decided to attend SDSU to earn a college degree. But, there is no need to limit your college experience to only the classroom setting. Opportunities for student involvement are virtually endless, and it is often those out-of-class experiences that graduates remember as they look back on their college years. There are many benefits of being involved on campus. Just a few of these benefits include:

- Research finding that involved students are more satisfied with their college experience, receive better grades, are more successful in their academic program, and are more likely to stay in school and graduate
- Developing a sense of community and a chance to connect with peers, faculty and staff on campus
- Leadership skills and an ability to work with others
- Marketable experience when applying for jobs or graduate school
- Opportunities to try something new and exciting!

In order to get involved at SDSU, visit the Office of Student Activities in the University Student Union. You can also view a complete listing of student organizations on the website (<http://studentaffairs.sdstate.edu/StudentUnion/StudentActivities/directory.htm>) or simply pay attention to the many student organizations and events advertised around campus.

“Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve.”
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)

SERVICE LEARNING: AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

BY LAURIE K. JOHNSON, RETENTION ADVISOR

Do you ever have those random moments when you take notice of something and think to yourself, “*Somebody really should do something about ...*” OR “*Wow! That would be a great experience. I’d love to do that!*” If so, service learning an opportunity to explore.

So what is it? Simply put, service learning is: You go somewhere. You do something! You evaluate it! You take away real world experience and make a difference.

Formally, service-learning integrates meaningful community service with academic study and reflection to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Service learning can be thought of as a bridge between volunteer service and field experience. In the first, you might perform valuable charity work that benefits your community; in the latter, you might complete an internship, study abroad, or complete research which primarily benefits you, the student. Service Learning blends both service to others and real world experiential learning that is mutually beneficial to both community and students. Service gives us opportunities to take on leadership roles, to problem solve, to cooperate with others, and to be part of the solution in our world. This can lead to better self-confidence, not to mention that feeling of doing something good!

With Service Learning, you could provide *direct service*. For example, five SDSU students participated in an Alternative Spring Break Trip to Winnipeg Canada where they volunteered at the Siloam Mission, providing support to poor and homeless persons. Participating students passionately describe the event as eye-opening and an experience that changes your perspective about college and life. Another type of Service Learning would be *indirect service*, where you participate in advocacy, research or capacity building, such as a VISTA volunteer might by planning and implanting a service project. Past project examples at SDSU include the Hunger Awareness Event or the Creek Cleanup Project. Either way, service learning is reciprocal, meaningful and challenging and often deals with larger social issues such as hunger, poverty, environmental concerns, and at the same time has clear objectives and involves critical reflection and learning.

One TRiO and Service Learning participant, Shawn Flottmeyer was able to travel to Belize with a Vet Science group. She had the opportunity to spade and neuter animals in an effort to control the population. The sense of helping improve the community was purposeful and rewarding. She enthusiastically encourages others to seek out similar opportunities within their area of study for both the experience and the adventure. If you would like to build your resume through Service Learning consider volunteering for Youth Service Day on April 25, 2009. For additional local, national, and global opportunities, contact the SDSU Service Learning Department or your retention advisor.

Need a way to get involved? Join the TRiO SSS Advisory Board. Contributed by: Kayla Kalkman, Advisory Board Member

The TRiO program is a great way to stay on top of your schoolwork! From the faculty, to the other student members, I have received great support through my academic journey. I appreciate the guidance I have received through the TRiO program, and in appreciation of others helping me, I decided to join the TRiO Advisory Board. The Advisory Board is a fun group, and a good way to make a great program even better!

This group meets monthly to discuss ideas for program improvements and provides opportunities in leadership and planning. If you would like to get involved, contact your Retention Advisor.

TRiO DAYS 2009

BY LAURA KINSLow,
RETENTION ADVISOR INTERN

While wind, snow, and ice threatened to snuff out this year's TRiO Day celebration, Old Man Winter had difficulty spoiling the time, energy, and heart-filled effort that went into making this year's TRiO Day a tremendous success. There was, however, something missing as one looked upon the vacant chairs in the Lewis and Clark room. Approximately fifty students from the TRiO Upward Bound Program were unable to attend due to the extremity of the weather.

Although it was an unfortunate loss not to have the Upward Bound students in attendance this year, our thoughts

were constantly with them as the program unfolded.

South Dakota State's two TRiO programs, Upward Bound and TRiO Student Support Services (SSS), would not exist if it was not for the support of our collegiate leaders, State and Federal Legislators, staff, and of course, the students in which TRiO serves. Therefore, the TRiO Programs were so very fortunate to have many of our supporters in attendance, both in person and by proclamation.

Among these supporters were SDSU President David Chicoine, Vice President of Student Affairs Marysz Rames, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs Matt

Aschenbrener, South Dakota Senators John Thune and Tim Johnson, and South Dakota Congress Woman Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin.

This year's TRiO Day keynote speaker was Dr. Mary Jo Lee, Engineering Diversity Coordinator at SDSU. Dr. Lee has not only been an avid supporter of the TRiO Programs, but has worked alongside Upward Bound and TRiO SSS as coordinator of the SDSU-Flandreau Indian School Success Academy. As many of the students involved in the Flandreau Indian School Success Academy are, also, members of the TRiO Upward Bound program, Dr. Lee emphasized the four Native

American core qualities needed for success in life, as well as success in education. These four qualities are bravery, fortitude, generosity, and wisdom. For each of these attributes, Dr. Lee explained their meaning and importance as well as conveyed the incredible true stories of those who had demonstrated great accomplishments in these areas to achieve their goals in education!

TRiO Day 2009 was truly a great success and serves as a reminder to us all why the TRiO programs exist, whom the TRiO programs serve, and how the TRiO programs continue to influence the lives of its participants.

South Dakota State University
TRiO Student Support Services
SWSC 110, Box 2214
Brookings, SD 57007



South Dakota State University