TRiO Helps Students Overcome Barriers to Success

LSC-Tomball is proud to have its own cohort of students participating in the TRiO Student Support Services program. Funded by a grant awarded to LSC-Tomball and LSC-North Harris by the Department of Education, our TRiO staff works to assist eligible students who want to be successful in college, but may have some academic, financial, or physical barriers that make this goal difficult.

Led by program manager Jane Buckner, TRiO advisors Lana Walters and Ericka Degracia provide a variety of one-on-one services to students in the program. These services include academic advising, tutoring, financial aid literacy, grant aid opportunities, transfer planning, workshops, cultural/enrichment activities, mentoring, and career resources. “It really is a one-stop shop for students participating in the cohort,” Buckner said.

In order to qualify for participation in the TRiO program, students must be a US citizen or permanent resident, be enrolled in at least nine credit hours at LSC-Tomball, and meet one or more of the following criteria: be a first generation college student, be eligible for or receiving financial aid based on need, or have a documented disability. Buckner explains, “Our goal is to give these students the support they need to graduate and to transfer to a four-year college.”

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OTA Students Host Carnival for Special Needs Children

LSC-Tomball Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) students presented the Adapted Halloween Carnival on October 28 as a community service project to reach children with special needs. The event not only fulfilled assigned OTA coursework but also gave the students an opportunity to create activities appro-
Sharon Jones, Director of Continuing Education at LSC-Tomball, has been appointed to the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce (GTACC) Board of Directors. This three-year appointment not only provides a unique opportunity for LSC-Tomball to further serve the local community, but also offers an additional resource to gauge the educational and vocational needs of the Tomball area.

In addition to this new role, Sharon is also the Southwest Regional Representative and board member of the Texas Administrators of Continuing Education. Sharon has been with the Lone Star College System since 2006.

College Night Connects Students and Higher Education

The office of Advising and Counseling hosted College Night on October 13 in the Beckendorf Conference Center. Over fifty colleges and universities were on hand to discuss the admissions process and program offerings of their respective institutions. Local high school students were invited to the event as well as LSC-Tomball students looking to transfer to a four-year university.

Accolades

Shannon Stephens

Advisor Shannon Stephens has been named LSC-Tomball’s Campus Champion for the Foster Care Alumni Transition Program (FCAT). FCAT is a support program, under the umbrella of Educational Partnerships and P-16 Initiatives at LSCS, designed to reach out to students who have aged out or are aging out of foster care. This program focuses on assisting these students to make a successful transition from high school into higher education and provides support as they pursue their life goals. “Foster youth who have aged out of the system many times do not have anyone in their lives to turn to,” Stephens says. “We hope to be a safe place for them to come. Just having a consistent contact on campus would be very helpful for them.”
Recent Events

Fall Fest

Halloween came a little early to LSC-Tomball this year as the office of Student Life hosted its annual Fall Fest. Students, staff and faculty participated in the free festival on the Southwest Lawn which offered a wide range of food and entertainment. Participants could ride in a gyroscope or knock each other about with an inflatable Wrecking Ball. Other activities included face painting, a dunking booth, a garlic toss, and an impromptu dance floor.

Rumors Kicks Off Drama’s New Season

The Lone Star College-Tomball Drama Department kicked off its 2011-2012 season on October 27-29 with the Neil Simon comedy Rumors. The production marked the debut of the theatre program on the stage of the new Performing Arts Center.

A classic farce, the play is set in a beautiful townhouse where the Deputy Mayor of New York has just shot himself. With his wife nowhere in sight, his lawyer must get “the story” straight before the other guests arrive. As the confusion and miscommunication mount, the comedy abounds.

Office of Technology Services Hosts Open Forum

The Office of Technology Services (OTS) invited faculty, staff, and students to an open forum held on October 11. Members of the OTS leadership team informed attendees about the state of various technological initiatives being undertaken across the system. LSCS Vice Chancellor/CIO Shah Ardalan introduced the “brightest team in the business.”

Link Alander, Associate Vice Chancellor – Technology Services, discussed infrastructure enhancements, the rollout of the WebEx virtual meeting system, and the fact that LSCS is seeking E911 certification. Butch Juelg, Executive Director – Campus Technology Services at LSC-North Harris, provided an update on the ServiceDesk's

Doug Boyd

What do you teach? I teach freshman composition and sophomore literature, mainly American literature.

How long have you taught at LSC-Tomball? Since 1988. I’m one of the founding faculty members and started teaching here straight out of grad school.

What other activities are you involved in at LSC-Tomball? In addition to being the secretary of the Faculty Senate, I’ve lately been involved in increasing the college’s appeal to wildlife. I’ve contributed to the building of a purple martin house, adding plants to the butterfly garden, and working on the installation of native plants near the PAC.

Why are you passionate about teaching? What is most gratifying to me about teaching is being able to help students demystify

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Transformations

Star of the Month

Hannah Andis

Education means many things to many people. To Hannah Andis, education means independence. Currently serving as vice president for the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society Texas Region and District IV, this Lone Star College-Tomball student is not taking her opportunity to achieve independence lightly.

The second of six children, Andis understands the importance of receiving a college education. “That way I can support myself in this world without burdening my family,” Andis says. “I also want to follow in my father’s footsteps and be the strongest person I can be.” She believes a solid academic foundation will provide her with skills to thrive after college as well as the tools she needs to form a solid character.

She hopes to transfer to the University of Houston to pursue her goal of becoming a registered nurse.

Office of Emergency Management Training

The LSCS Office of Emergency Management hosted a two-day training session on October 10 and 12 in the Beckendorf Conference Center. On October 10, guest speaker Ammy Gierzak from the Harris County Office of Emergency Management provided an overview of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), which addresses resource management and personnel division in times of crisis.

A tabletop exercise was conducted on October 12. Facilitated by Dr. Denise Walker, LSCS Chief Emergency Management Officer, participants were divided into workgroups with assigned roles and given a fictional scenario involving workplace violence. The exercise was meant to encourage discussion about what incident action plans are already in place and what processes may be in need of improvement.

Faculty Concert

On September 29, LSC-Tomball faculty performed in a free concert in the Performing Arts Center. Titled “Music of the Masters,” the concert featured eight professors performing various classics.

Marwin Britto, the new Executive Director – LSC-Online, rounded out the discussion by highlighting this semester’s increase in students taking classes online as well as other initiatives designed to enhance and improve the online learning experience for both students and faculty.

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Community Partnerships

Chamber First Friday Lunch

The Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce (GTACC) held its First Friday Lunch in the Beckendorf Conference Center on October 7. A group of firemen, EMTs, and EMS officers who contributed to the firefighting efforts during the Magnolia wildfires were recognized as the Public Safety Officers of the Month. Tomball’s mayor, Gretchen Fagan, delivered the keynote address, providing Chamber members with an update on the Depot as well as tax revenue projections. Following the lunch, LSC-Tomball Vice President of Administrative Services John Fishero and LSC-Tomball Senior Project Director of Construction Wayne Thompson provided tours of the new LSC-Tomball Performing Arts Center.

SBDC Helps Locals Jump Start Their Business

Karen Cavallaro, a Senior Consultant with the LSCS Small Business Development Center (SBDC), will begin facilitating services for small business owners in the Tomball area. Working from an office in the Greater Tomball Area Chamber of Commerce building, Cavallaro will organize training sessions through the LSC-Tomball Community Library to educate local business owners. The SBDC offers hands-on, no-cost consulting assistance and specialized services designed to help small business owners gain knowledge and skills to help their business grow.
Upcoming Events

• Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony
  Performing Arts Center, November 2
  7:00 p.m.

• Spring Registration
  November 9

• Veterans Day Celebration
  Performing Arts Center, November 12
  10 a.m.

• CE “Lone Star Living” Holiday Learning Expo
  Beckendorf Conference Center, November 12
  Noon

• Thanksgiving Holiday
  (Offices Closed)
  November 24-27

To see the most current events, visit LoneStar.edu/Calendars