

TRiO NEWS

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

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Student Spotlight



Christopher Casillas is currently a freshman at Eastern Michigan University. He decided to attend EMU, because he felt that he would be able to be successful at this university. Another reason he decided to attend Eastern was because of the full tuition scholarship that he was awarded from the school. Some of his educational goals are to be admitted into the Nursing program and to earn a 4.0 GPA for the winter semester.

Christopher had a rocky start to his first year at EMU. He states, "I lost track of why I was here. I would procrastinate and expect to do well, because I used to do that in high school." It took a second for him to realize that this was not the case. He says that he was fortunate not to fail his classes, but he was not able to save his GPA. He would have fun before taking care of business and his grades reflected that. He had a hard time getting through all of the homework and would fall behind. He had long nights and early mornings full of studying. Christopher says, because of TRIO, "I learned how to manage my time. Before I received a 2.26. And now, after this semester is over, I will hopefully finish with a 3.9 for the winter and a 3.0 or 3.1 overall. TRIO has been there for me since day 1, so I'm glad I chose TRIO."

Christopher chose to be a part of TRIO SSS because he felt wanted by the program and felt like TRIO actually cared about students' education. The TRIO SSS staff has been known to say that they harass students with love, but Christopher sees it as the staff showing that they are interested in student success. He is currently part of the Eastern Michigan University rugby team as well as the Latina/o Student Association. One thing that he is most proud of is getting a second chance in success and obtaining the good grades that he wanted for the winter semester.

Chicago Graduate School Visit

Our TRIO students had an amazing time in Chicago, Illinois, for an overnight trip as our academic year came to an end. TRIO took 10 deserving students to experience the culture and buzz of Chicago, which many had never experienced before. The trip started with a Graduate School visit to University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) where our students had the chance to hear all about what UIC has to offer when it comes to graduate studies. There, the staff stressed how important graduate school is and gave our students plenty of information to think about. After a quick change at the hotel, TRIO headed to Mia Francesca, where they indulged in a four course meal of fine Italian cuisine. The night ended with an incredible show at the Briar Street Theatre, seeing the Blue Man Group perform. The students then had free time to explore Chicago on their own. The rest of the trip was spent sight seeing at Millennium Park and Navy Pier, as well as eating more deep dish pizza than one could imagine.



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Thank you UIC TRIO ASP!

