

TRiO NEWS

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

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Student Spotlight: Celebration of Student Writing



On November 30, 44 TRIO SSS students, along with more than 1,200 students in EMU's First-Year Writing Program, participated in the 33rd Semiannual Celebration of Student Writing (CSW) in the Grand Ballroom of the Student Center.

Now in its 17th year, the CSW offers WRTG 121 students the opportunity to transform their research writing for presentation to a public audience comprised of the EMU campus community.

For the first time this year, TRIO SSS was able to offer a cohorted section of WRTG 121, taught by Dr. Chalice Randazzo, Assistant Professor of Written Communication in English Language and Literature Department at EMU. 22 TRIO student were enrolled in Dr. Randazzo's class as a way to support the program's learning community concept.

"The Celebration of Writing at Eastern Michigan University has marked a moment when the walls of the university classrooms are made porous for over a thousand first-year students," says Dr. Derek Mueller, Associate Professor of Written Communication and Director of EMU's First-Year Writing Program.

"Based on feedback from attendees, student-presenters and our exceptional instructional staff," Dr. Mueller explains, "we find evidence again and again of just how distinctively transformative are opportunities for students to engage genuine audiences with their writing and research."

First-year TRIO SSS student, Sierra Evans, who presented at the CSW, states, "I didn't know what to expect going to this event: I thought I was going be grilled down by other professors and older students about my project. But it was the total opposite!"

Megan Tammarine, another first-year TRIO SSS student presenting this semester, also enjoyed her experience, saying, "My favorite part of the CSW was seeing all the other amazing research projects from other students. So many students spent so much time on these projects...It just reminds me of what a diverse world we live in, and how many different types of people with different interests live in it."

TRIO SSS Celebration of Student Writing Participants

Teris Ammons, Morgan Andrews, Kevin Becerra, Peter Bejin, Zacaira Benjamin, Leah Bereket, DaNay Carter, Taylor Daniels, Luke DeGraff, Veronica DeLaHarpe, Ely Escobar, Sierra Evans, Aaron Federick, Briana Foreman, Jose Gonzalez, Anton Greenbay, Ashley Hall, Miah Harris, Lauren Heilig, Hanah Kalenak, Allyson Kauzlarich, Dajah Kelly, Taaj Khabir, Jessica Ligi, Meah Monske, Nathan Niemczewski, Jose Orozco, Kelsey Pacetti, Elden Palmer, Macy Palmer, Jennifer Signoretti, Sarena Smith, Kevin Song, Di'Anna Stokes, Megan Tammarine, Georgina Taylor, Francisco Tellez, Cierra Vazquez, Kevin Walker, Tiavah Washington, Jett Wendler, Cheyla Westjohn, Kyiona Williams

"Skin": The Play

On November 17, the TRIO SSS Program took a trip to downtown Detroit. While there, students enjoyed Cuban food at Vincente's Cuban Cuisine. After enjoying some good food, participants went to a live play entitled *Skin*, held at the Grand Venue in Detroit. *Skin* was a play about the racism that people of color have been facing for many years. "Skin was a amazing play about a black boy who was shot by a white cop. It showed typical life events happening in today's society about racism and grief," stated TRIO student, DaNay Carter, in an essay she wrote about the play.



"The actors expressed a wide variety of change needed in today's time. They spoke about racism, love, hate, and coming together to solve our world's issues. I would say this play brought a very diverse and inclusive audience in," stated Tiana Stewart. "This [event] brought up a lot of relevant problems that we must solve and helped me brainstorm what types of things...I could do to make the future of our society better," she concluded.

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Happy Holidays From TRIO SSS!

