

TRiO Alumni Highlights



September 2017

The AAEOPP Alumni Committee is proud to present our Alumni Star of the month: Terri Ricks from George C. Wallace Community College

Alumni Committee

Terri Ricks, Alumni Chair
Kayla Light, Alumni Co-Chair
Erica Tabb
Lisa Moore
LaKee Binion
Cody Hammack

The committee members would like to invite you to nominate one of your TRiO Alumni. Please send nominations to Terri Ricks (tricks@wallace.edu) and Kayla Light (kayla.light@bscc.edu)

Your AAEOPP Alumni Committee has been hard at work to jump start a new effort to recognize our outstanding alumni. Throughout the year, we will send a monthly newsletter that highlights the amazing work our alumni do in their professional fields. We are particularly interested in those alumni who returned to TRiO as a career. We want to encourage you to nominate an alumnus from your department to be presented in our letter.

To apply, simply send us a picture and a 250-word write-up on how you started in TRiO, what you are doing now, and how TRiO advanced your life and education. It is our sincere hope that we will end up with enough emails to flood our inboxes for the year, so please do not hesitate to apply. Alumni are TRiO's shining stars because they embodied the success of our programs. TRiO works, so let's show it!

Pictured: Terri Ricks is standing in front of mantel. She is wearing a white shirt with a crimson jacket and gold necklace.



Story by: Terri Ricks

It All Added Up to Equal Success

Terri Ricks, Coordinator of TRiO Student Support Services at George C. Wallace Community College, is an advocate for TRiO students. Considering she was in both Educational Talent Search (ETS) and Upward Bound (UB) explains it all.

Terri participated in ETS in grades 6th through 8th, and UB in 9th through 12th. In Talent Search, she remembers her advisor's workshop on the importance of staying in school. In Upward Bound, the college prep courses assisted her for high school and college. She thoroughly enjoyed the campus tours and cultural exposure through both programs. She was even honored as Miss Upward Bound her Senior year.

After high school, Terri attended and graduated from Tuskegee University with a degree in Mathematics. In 2004, she was hired as a Professional Math Instructor/Tutor for George C. Wallace Community College Upward Bound Program, the same exact program she participated in. She tutored and mentored many students whose shoes she once wore.

In 2005, George C. Wallace Community College hired Terri as a Mathematics Instructional Coordinator with TRiO Student Support Services (SSS). Although she was a professional, she still admired and took advice from the staff of SSS and decided to pursue higher education. In 2009, Terri obtained a Master's degree in Human Resource Management at Troy University. Currently, Terri is the Coordinator of Services for the SSS program.

Works at George C.
Wallace

Educational Talent Search
and Upward Bound
Alumnus

13 years working in TRiO

Chair of the AAEOPP Alumni
Committee

Master's Degree in Human
Resource Management

"I am excited each and every day to come to work and bless someone. All I want to do is give back, encourage others and prove to them that it can be done. I say this to students all the time, "if I can do it, you can too. There really are no excuses."

—Terri Ricks



Special thanks to Shawanda Benjamin, AAEOPP President and Director of TRiO programs at UAB and to Terri Ricks for helping with this month's newsletter.