

# TRiO SSS Aviator

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Central Carolina Technical College

## TRiO GOES TO ATLANTA *by* LaCharley Sherrod

### TRiO Tip of the Month

*Read the syllabus, and know what's in there!*

*The syllabus is a contract that explains to you the rules of the class and the penalties for breaking these rules. It also tells you how you are going to be graded and what is expected of you.*

On behalf of the Central Carolina TRiO Student Support Services program, eight students who were enrolled in the summer semester had the opportunity to take a 3 day college trip to greater Downtown Atlanta, Georgia from June 26, 2009 to June 28, 2009. The trip included a visit to two of Atlanta's most prominent colleges: Clark Atlanta University and Georgia Institute of Technology. We also used Atlanta's City Pass to visit the CNN Center, the World of Coca-Cola, and the Georgia Aquarium. To culminate the trip, we also had an opportunity to join the service of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church.



The colleges provided information on the following: college accreditations, academics programs, student life, tuition cost, and admissions. Clark Atlanta University (CAU) is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award Bachelor, Master, Specialist, and Doctorial Degrees. The University is also accredited by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church and National Collegiate Athletic Association, Division II. CAU offers 38 major areas of study through four schools – Arts and Sciences; Business Administration; Education; and Social Work. The campus spans over 126 acres of land in Atlanta and is conjoined by Spellman College and Morehouse College. The “CAU Experience” is a high standard program provided by student leaders and University officials to provide new student with an introduction to academic, social, campus and community resources. The annual tuition is approximately \$24,158. The faculty-student ratio is 1:18. CAU also has developed a partnership with adjacent campuses, Spellman College and Morehouse College called the Atlanta University System, allowing for greater coordination between undergraduate and graduate programs.

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## Important Dates to Remember

### Deadlines

**August 19:** Mandatory Fall Mentor/Tutor Meeting

**August 28:** Ambassador Selection

### Campus Visits:

**September 2009:** Colleges in the Columbia Area

### Workshops

No Workshops Scheduled in August

### Other Meetings.

**Reminder:** You must complete **two workshops and two Financial Literacy trainings** per semester,

attend **scheduled monthly counseling sessions**, attend a least **one campus visit/cultural event** per semester, keep up-to-date on current events via the TRiO site, and continue to make **satisfactory progress in your classes**, to remain an active student in TRiO.

## Atlanta Tour Cont'd

Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools providing a wide variety of technologically focused Bachelor, Master, and Doctoral degree programs. Georgia Tech has many undergraduate and graduate degree programs to include: Colleges of Architecture, Engineering, Sciences, Computing, Management, and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts. The campus occupies 400 acres in the heart of the city of Atlanta, where more than 19,000 students receive education. Georgia Tech has a wide variety of student resources, activities, and support programs to keep students extremely active and to assist students in a successful college experience. The annual tuition is approximately \$35,376 for non state residents. The faculty-student ratio is 1:20.



The CNN Studio provides a 55-minute guided walking tour offering guest exclusive, behind-the-scene views of CNN. The guided tour answered questions and shared a glimpse of what happens with newsgathering and broadcasting before it is presented to the world. The World of Coca-Cola had a thrilling 4D Theater, a walk through fully-functioning bottle line,

and a tasting experience of over 60 Coca-Cola products from all around the world.



The Georgia Aquarium was a one-of-a-kind experience of the world's largest collection of aquatic animals in 8 million gallons of water. The Aquarium had five unique galleries housing hundreds of species and an endless display of the most exceptional animals on earth. These events provided many opportunities to purchase souvenirs, take photos, and experience the offerings of Atlanta to visitors and potential college students.



Jasmine Guy  
*"A Different World"*

Lastly, we visited New Birth Missionary Baptist Church started by Bishop Eddie Long, with a 25,000-member congregation. The service attracted crowds of 40,000 to include athletes, entertainers, politicians and entrepreneurs. We had the opportunity to hear guest speaker, Jasmine Guy, and a powerful message from Bishop Eddie Long himself. This occasion was definitely powerful, inspirational and a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Bishop Eddie Long

## Triple "T" Night



### *Triple "T" Night* A Night of Fun and Relaxation

On July 16, 2009, we held our first successful Triple "T" Night. July's feature was "Movie Night." We watched Eagle Eye, ate pizza and candy, and most importantly relaxed.

The Student Support Service Staff invites you to a night of stress less relaxation with your fellow TRiO peers. On the Third Thursday of each month you're encouraged to take part in our Triple "T" Night. This night gives you a chance to become more sociable among your fellow TRiO colleagues, as well as takes a couple of hours to unwind from a busy days work. The best part about the night is it's FREE! Who would pass that up?

Look out for Triple "T" posters going up around TRiO. We hope to see you on September 17, 2009 for our next successful Triple "T" Night.

## The Trip Continues



The trip was one of the best experiences most of the students have ever had. Not only was this trip educational, informational and inspirational, it was a great chance for students to interact with mentors, other TRiO students, other colleges and another state. On behalf of the other students on this tour and myself, we would like to thank all the TRiO staff, the college, affiliates and everyone else that assisted in making and allowing us to have this great opportunity.

## Changes Coming to TRiO Tutoring this Fall

Once again, tutoring services will be offered for TRiO students through TRiO Student Support Services. However, there will be some new additions to the program starting this fall:

1. All students interested in receiving tutoring will be required to fill out and submit a request for tutoring. While there is no deadline, it would be wise to sign up as soon as possible, if you think you will need tutoring.
2. The Tutor Coordinator will be collecting all requests and matching students who need tutoring with a tutor that will work with them throughout the semester as a standing appointment. Subsequently, "walk-in tutoring" will no longer be available on a regular basis.
3. At the first tutoring session, students will be provided with a brief "tutoring orientation" outlining their responsibilities and expectations, as well as the tutors' responsibilities, during tutoring sessions for the semester.

Please come to TRiO to sign up for tutoring as soon as you realize that you would benefit from working with a tutor. Forms will be available in the TRiO office as of Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>. As with any transition, there will be some challenges to overcome. Your patience and feedback are very important and continue to help TRiO grow.

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## *10 Steps to An Easy Transfer, by Sonia Blyther*

### **1. *Identify your Area of Study***

This is vital in choosing a college. If you do not know what in what you want to major, then it is time to make an appointment with a career counselor or advisor who can assist you with this decision.

### **2. *Always Register with “Transfer” in Mind. Keep your grades up!***

When you meet with your advisor each semester, remind him or her that you plan to transfer in order so that they can assist you in selecting courses that transfer easily. YOUR GRADES ARE IMPORTANT FROM THE START! Transfer colleges will see all of your grades. Avoid F’s, W’s and grades lower than a “C”. Many students are competing for limited seats in popular areas of study; your GPA can either limit or broaden your career options. Get tutoring, go to the Writing Center, the Math Lab, or your instructors during office hours to get extra help. Save all of your course syllabi, they may help you to justify transfer credit later. REMEMBER: Schools look at your grades from all your semesters so keep them up!

### **3. *Consider the Environment that you want at your Transfer College***

What is important to YOU in a College?

Consider these questions:

- Location...close to home or not?
- What schools have the major you want to study?
- What size school is good for your learning style?
- Are you interested in a Public or Private school?
- What is the cost and is there Financial Aid available?
- What is the campus setting? Is it rural, city or suburb? Is that good for you?

### **4. *Develop a list of colleges that suit YOU***

The Transfer Counselor can help you with this list. You can also use these books in the public library or Central Carolina’s library. College searches are also available on the Internet at <http://www.collegeview.com>, <http://www.nycareerzone.org>, [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), [www.mycollegeguide.org](http://www.mycollegeguide.org) and [www.cgf.org](http://www.cgf.org).

### **5. *Research your colleges***

With a list of 5-10 colleges, begin detailed research by using the Internet. Check out the college catalog etc. online. Talk to your advisor, professors and transfer counselors about colleges. This is a time when you need to prioritize your desires.

- Would you be willing to go to a large school if it was financially more appealing?
- OR Is the size and personal attention most important to you?
- What are you willing to Trade off? Narrow your list to 3-5 schools that you would be happy at.

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## *10 Steps to An Easy Transfer*, Continued

### **6. *Send for Catalogs and Applications***

Many schools have their catalogs and applications online...and often times they will waive the application fee online.

### **7. *Visit the Campus***

If at all possible, it is important to visit the campus to get a “feel” for campus life. Is it a good match for YOU? Take a tour. This is a good time for you to find out information about the school as well as let them know who you are.

Look for clues that tell you about the school

- Check out the bulletin board...what is happening on campus ...does it interest you?
- Visit a class in your major
- Visit the cafeteria...can you live with the food?
- Visit the dorms if you will live on campus. Are they coed by floor or room? What is the atmosphere like?
- Read the college newspaper....
- Talk to students (even beyond your tour guide) What do they like and dislike?
- Go to the library...is it welcoming? Do they have the materials you will need?
- If you will commute, how are the services for commuters? Do offices have hours that are convenient for YOU?

### **8. *Set Up an Interview***

This is a time for YOU to get to know the school as well as for the Admissions reps to get to know YOU.

Think of questions beforehand and write them down!

- Be on time. Dress neatly but casually
- Be familiar with the college materials
- Relax and be yourself
- Bring a copy of your transcript and ask the interviewer if you could have an estimate on HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE YOU TO COMPLETE YOUR DEGREE?
- What grants or scholarships are available for transfer students?
- What is the average class size?
- Are advisors available? Is tutoring available and free?

### **9. *Applications, Financial Aid, Transcripts, and References.***

Apply on line or type your applications.

- Apply to 3-5 schools including 1 safety, 1 stretch and 2 matches!
- Have your Registrar's office send your transcripts from any colleges you have attended

## *10 Steps to An Easy Transfer, Continued*

- Send your FAFSA to all the schools. **DO THIS EARLY...**the early applicants get most of the financial aid.
- Personalize your essay to help the admissions committee to get to know YOU. Have a professor, the writing center etc. look it over before you send it.
- If references are needed, use professors who know you. Ask them early and provide them with a stamped, addressed envelope to make the task easy.

### **10. Wait and Decide.**

You made it. Relax and wait. Do not forget to send in your deposit once you are accepted.

### **CONGRATULATIONS !!**

This article was taken from the Schenectady County Community College Transfer Home Page at <http://www.sunysccc.edu/student/Counseling/10StepstoTransfer.html>.

## **TRiO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

TRiO Student Support Services is a federally funded program, that is committed to helping students become successful in their college career. It offers:

- ⇒ College Tours and Transfer Assistance
- ⇒ Cultural and Social Events
- ⇒ Financial Aid Assistance
- ⇒ Academic Assistance
- ⇒ Counseling Services
- ⇒ Workshops (Financial Aid, Interviewing Skills, Personal Finance, etc.)

All the services offered are free to Active TRiO Students.

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## **Requirement for All TRiO Students—Financial Literacy**

The Higher Education Act of 2008 mandates that TRiO Student Support Services programs are to improve financial literacy for students. To corporate Financial Literacy Education, TRiO has implemented the use of Financial Literacy Online (<http://www.nslpflonline.org>).

This program analyses financial stress, credit card use, budgeting, long and short term financial goals, loan pay-backs, etc. The program is set in eight segments to meet the goal of understanding finances.

It is mandatory that each TRiO member completes two segments of the Financial Literacy program each semester and receive positive feedback on the final exam. The TRiO program tracks the progress of each student. To access the Financial Literacy website, go to MYCCTC and enter the TRiO group site. Click on the link and follow the instructions to gain entry.

Printout your final exam review attempt sheet and turn it in to the TRiO office to receive credit for completing the requirement. Studies have shown that financial stress can have negative consequences ranging from reduced academic achievement to dropping out of school.

*G. Parker*