



# TRiO Newsletter

June 2015

Wallace Community College

## Aynthia L. Merrill to Graduate from Troy University

Aynthia L. Merrill, 2013 graduate of Wallace Community College-Sparks and Eufaula native, will graduate from Troy University in Troy at the end of summer semester 2015. She plans to start graduate school in Troy-Dothan’s Direct Social Work Program in August. Later Aynthia plans to join the United States military. She would like to become a social worker for the military and serve soldiers and their families at home or overseas.

Aynthia says that she first chose Troy because it was convenient, but after her first semester, she realized that Troy has an outstanding social work program. She has chosen Troy-Dothan’s graduate program both for convenience and because it was highly recommended by the Director of the Social Work Program at Troy.

During her time at Troy, Aynthia was active in the Social Work Program Organization, Sigma Alpha Sigma sorority, and the Army R.O.T.C. She enjoyed the R.O.T.C. the most because she gained so much strength and knowledge from the program, and the staff was very supportive. She felt that she was not just another number while attending Troy.

Aynthia was able to pay for her last semester at Troy using money raised by a Go Fund Me account that she set up in March, 2015.

Aynthia credits Wallace Community College with helping her gain insight into what a four-year university would be like through the numerous TRiO campus tours and for helping her prepare for the change to a larger university.

Aynthia’s advice to other students: “I would tell any student that wants to attend a four-year university to keep their grades up because a scholarship will be very helpful. I would also tell them that time management and finance management are key.”



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## Upward Bound Students Read Their Original Poetry to Abbeville Elementary Students



Marcos (Jerrell) Young, Jr. reads to Abbeville Elementary students. Marcos is a senior at Abbeville High School.



Participating in the poetry reading at Abbeville Elementary School were left to right: Addrienne Conner, Chelsea Craddock, Katelynn Johnson, and Marcos (Jerrell) Young, Jr. All are seniors at Abbeville High School, Abbeville, Alabama.



Upward Bound students read their original poetry to Abberville Elementary students.

—Monchel Hollins

## Understanding the Importance of “Why”

Many students will agree that college demands your time, your growth, your knowledge, your fortitude, and your resilience. To celebrate getting that tassel on your graduation day, one must stay encouraged. One method to stay encouraged begins with WHY. I want to ponder the WHY question so you will understand the importance of knowing such when discouragement occurs.

Really think about WHY you desire to attend an educational institution of higher learning. Not what you will receive but WHY are you receiving it. WHY do you feel that you need to advance your learning? Think from the inside out instead of thinking from the outside in. For instance, remove the focus from your surroundings, your family, your home, your job and allow your “gut” feelings to answer the WHY. Allow the “it feels right” to answer the WHY. You must put these feelings into words for the WHY. If you can verbalize your WHY, it will provide the emotional background to move forward when circumstances dictate otherwise.

To gain inspiration to achieve goals, it must start with the clarity of WHY! The WHY enables balance. The WHY solidifies goals and ensures completion of goals. The WHY allows stamina to foster when the facts indicate something different. You must define the WHY before you can reach that graduation Tassel. I know you believe you know the WHY but can you actually put it into words. For example, when you think of Apple do you think about computers? You see, Apple dropped the word computers from its name in 2007 because the company focused on the WHY. Apple wanted to sell more than just computers. Their WHY became “challenging the status quo by thinking differently.” Now we have iPhone, iPad, iPod, and iTunes instead of just the Apple computer.

Thus, I challenge you to think differently by understanding the WHY. Then the HOW and WHAT will become easy. If you realize the clarity of WHY, you will begin to prioritize the demands for college admissions, scholarships, ACT scores, and place the need for studying above other relevant and irrelevant requirements. The WHY brings discipline and self accountability to one’s life. The WHY allows ultimate balance leading to new outcomes and new opportunities.

Establish the clarity of WHY, then you will experience success in more ways than you can imagine.

—Mickey Baker, Director TRiO Student Support Services and Upward Bound





## Upward Bound Student At AgriTrek/SciTrek at Tuskegee University

In the photo collage above, Upward Bound student, Dashon Cromwell, is undertaking the challenge of using a rope to scale a tree while attending AgriTrek/SciTrek at Tuskegee University. Dashon is a senior at Eufaula High School. This one-week residential program created an awareness of the educational and career opportunities available in agricultural and related sciences through hands-on research, leadership development, and personal enrichment activities. Selected Upward Bound students in the program conducted intensive research under the guidance and mentoring of professors and graduate students who exposed them to the latest developments in science and technology through research projects based on their career interests.

## TRiO Student Support Services Participants Attend Motivational Event at Enterprise Community College

Approximately 10 TRiO participants visited Enterprise State Community College on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 to hear motivational speaker, Mr. Ibrahim Kareem Lee, TRiO Upward Bound alumni from Alabama State University, Montgomery, AL. Mr. Lee's topic, "You have no choice but to win," inspired students to strive for excellence.

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## TRiO Student Support Services Participants Volunteer at Free Medical Services project

The Delta Regional Authority, the United States Navy Reserve, and the United States Marine Corps Reserve are hosting clinics to offer free medical, dental and eye services through June 26, 2015. The clinics will be open to members of the public ages 2 and older from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Eufaula and Barbour County High Schools. The services offered are:

- Medical Screening and non-emergency medical treatment (NO EMERGENCIES, NO OB EXAMS or OB TREATMENT)
- Dental Exams, Extractions, and Fillings ONLY (NO ROOT CANALS or CROWNS)
- Optometry exams and glasses AT NO COST (Single vision, one pair only)
- Sports physicals

On Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20, the following TRiO SSS participants volunteered at the Barbour County High School site to assist with registration and traffic direction. Pictured below are volunteers:

Natori Tyson, Lokia Rumph, Zoekia McKinnes, and Torrance Pullom with military personnel in charge of medical services. Not pictured are Jaleah Kennedy, Fernita Grant, and Jacquavious Bowick.



Pictured is Jaleah Kennedy registering the public attendees.



TRiO on the Wallace Community College Sparks and Dothan Campuses is made up of three programs: Student Support Services, Upward Bound and Talent Search. They are federally

funded programs by the U. S. Department of Education that provide support and opportunity for eligible students-middle school through college. To reach any person on this list, call 983-3521 or 687-3543 and then the extension below:

**Student Support Services**

- Mickey Baker**..... Ext. 4244  
mbaker@wallace.edu
- Terri Ricks** ..... Ext. 4272  
tricks@wallace.edu
- Jane French** ..... Ext. 4249  
jfrench@wallace.edu
- Kathy Lawhorn** ..... Ext. 2367  
klawhorn@wallace.edu
- Jertavia Lyman**..... Ext. 2620  
jlyman@wallace.edu
- Roquel Horne**..... Ext. 4274  
rhorne@wallace.edu
- Shauna L. Stone** ..... Ext. 2368  
stone@wallace.edu
- Lisa Peterson** ..... Ext. 4271  
lpeterson@wallace.edu

**Upward Bound**

- Brittany Jones**..... Ext. 4256  
bjones@wallace.edu
- Monchel Hollins** ..... Ext. 4204  
mhollins@wallace.edu
- Mary Pearl Morris**..... Ext. 4255  
mmorris@wallace.edu

**Talent Search**

- Tameka Williams**..... Ext. 4280  
twilliams@wallace.edu
- Buffae Howard**..... Ext. 4283  
bhoward@wallace.edu
- Laurie Greene**..... Ext. 4281  
lgreene@wallace.edu
- Dorothy Hawkins**..... Ext. 4226  
dhawkins@wallace.edu

*“Start where you are.  
Use what you have.  
Do what you can.”  
—Arthur Ashe*

**Scholarships and Financial Aid Information**

**Dothan Service League Scholarship.** This scholarship is for a female student attending the Dothan Campus Fall 2015 and who meets the qualifications and requirements listed on the application. **Deadline to apply is 4:00 p.m. on June 25, 2015.** For more information and an application go to the Wallace website below.

**Wallace Community College Foundation Dothan Campus Scholarship Packet for Fall 2015.** This packet contains 37 different scholarships with varied qualifications and requirements. **Deadline to apply is no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 2, 2015.** For more information and an application go to the Wallace website below.

**Wallace Community College Foundation Sparks Campus Scholarship Packet for Fall 2015.** This packet contains 15 different scholarships with varied qualifications and requirements. **Deadline to apply is 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 9, 2015.** For more information and an application go to the Wallace website below:

[www.wallace.edu](http://www.wallace.edu)  
[Click on Financial Aid](#)  
[Click on Current Scholarships](#)

