



# The Westmoreland Wire

## Fall 2019

The Westmoreland Wire is a newsletter *exclusively* for students in the TRIO/SSS program at Westmoreland. This newsletter contains important updates, upcoming events and activities, and ways to get involved in TRIO! Continue reading to catch up on what's going on in TRIO!

### Meet the Staff



Julie Greathouse  
Director, Student Success



Vicki Walker  
Program Coordinator



Carol Miller  
TRIO Clerk



Mark Harrison  
TRIO Counselor



Daisy Schropp  
TRIO Counselor



Renae Sever  
TRIO Counselor

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### TRIO Changes

TRIO counselor Daisy Schropp, will be on maternity leave starting mid-November. TRIO counselors Mark Harrison and Renae Sever will be available to students while Daisy is out. If you are assigned to Daisy, please keep an eye on your Westmoreland email for more information.

**TRIO TIP:** Check your Westmoreland email **DAILY!** All college communication is done through your Westmoreland email. [Click Here](#) for instructions to add your email to your phone.

## TRIO Open House

New and returning TRIO students are invited to attend the TRIO Open House. New students will meet the staff, learn more about our services, meet fellow TRIO students and receive a gift bag of supplies! Returning TRIO students can check in with their counselor and pick up a supply bag.



The TRIO Open House will be located in the TRIO Office, BIC, Room 4401:

Tuesday, August 27 • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**OR**

Wednesday, August 28 • 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

## Important Dates

Classes Start

Labor Day (College Closed)

Faculty Development (No Classes)

Faculty Development (No Classes)

Thanksgiving (College Closed)

Exam or Class Days

Winter Break (College Closed)

**Thursday, August 15**

**Monday, September 2**

**Tuesday, October 1**

**Thursday, October 24**

**Thursday, Nov. 27 - Sunday, Dec. 1**

**Friday, Dec. 6 - Wednesday, Dec. 11**

**Tuesday, Dec. 24 - Wednesday, Jan. 1**

## Student Activities

Welcome Week Kick-Off

Welcome Week Minute-to-Win-it

Doug's Wire Writing

[Club Rush](#)

Paint-a-Piggy Bank

Student Trip to Pittsburgh Pirates

Nursing Transfer Fair (Youngwood)

Nursing Transfer Fair (Indiana)

Transfer Fair

Make Your Own Stress Ball

[First-Generation Celebration](#)

Holiday Cards

Stress Less Week

**Thursday, August 15**

**Friday, August 16**

**Monday, August 19**

**Wednesday, Aug. 28 & Thursday, Aug. 29**

**Tuesday, September 24**

**Thursday, September 26**

**Friday, September 27**

**Friday, October 4**

**Wednesday, October 9**

**Wednesday, October 23**

**Thursday, November 7**

**Tuesday, November 19**

**Monday, Dec. 2 - Thursday, Dec. 5**

**CHECK YOUR PORTAL CALENDAR FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES**

## TRIO Peer Mentoring Program

For new students, college can be exciting, but also confusing and perhaps intimidating. College can also be lonely for new students, especially if these students are the first in their family to attend college. Simple things that returning students take for granted can be challenging for new students, such as finding classrooms and offices on campus, understanding college policies and registering for classes.

The TRIO Peer Mentoring Program strives to connect new students ("Mentees") with experienced students ("Mentors") in a group-oriented approach. Mentors and Mentees meet regularly in a group setting with other Mentors and Mentees. Facilitated by a TRIO counselor, these meetings provide opportunities for all participants to share their perspective on college life with the group. The collective wisdom of the group helps to solve problems, increase practical knowledge, and improve confidence and competence. A sincere effort to connect with an open heart and an open mind ensures that the time Mentors and Mentees spend together is meaningful.

It is TRIO's hope that with the help of Mentors, Mentees are better able to stay focused, engaged and do well in college. For more information on TRIO's Peer Mentoring Program, contact Renae at [severr@westmoreland.edu](mailto:severr@westmoreland.edu) or 724-925-4000, ext. 3359.

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## TRIO Cultural Trips

You won't want to miss a TRIO Cultural Trip this semester!  
Keep an eye on your college email and remind.com text alerts for more information and to RSVP!

[Fallingwater](#) - Friday, September 6, 2019

[University of Pittsburgh](#) and [Cathedral of Learning](#) - Friday, October 11, 2019



# University of Pittsburgh



### TRIVIA CHALLENGE

TRIO is starting something new this year! We will be having a monthly **TRIVIA CHALLENGE**. The Trivia Challenge will be a monthly email that includes a Google Form to answer a trivia question. We will test your knowledge on the TRIO program, Westmoreland or other random facts. Students who answer correctly will be entered into a drawing to win a gift card.

Keep an eye on your Westmoreland email for the upcoming August **TRIVIA CHALLENGE!**

### BOOKS BY eCAMPUS

Starting with the fall 2019 semester, [Books by eCampus](#) will be the college's online book provider. Students from all Westmoreland locations will be able to take advantage of several purchasing options including new, used, rental, eTextbook and a network of third-party marketplace sellers. Make sure to use the School Sign In!

School Sign In

Sign In via  
Your School Account

### DESIRE2LEARN (D2L)

Westmoreland has officially switched from Blackboard to Desire2Learn (D2L). Students are encouraged to visit the [D2L Student Support](#) site to view the [D2L student YouTube playlist](#) as well as the [D2L student help](#) information. All students are enrolled in an online orientation course to learn how to use D2L.

To access D2L, visit <https://d2l.westmoreland.edu>, type your MyWestmoreland username and password and click Log In.

### FREE TUTORING

Free tutoring is available to all Westmoreland students in the [College Learning Center](#), BIC Room 4302. Tutoring is available as regular weekly sessions or single sessions. Tutoring staff includes professional, peer and volunteer tutors who can provide assistance in most credit courses.

To request a tutor, complete an application in the CLC or at your Westmoreland center.

### RENOVATIONS

Renovations to Westmoreland are still under way! Please regularly check your Westmoreland email for classroom changes, office relocations and renovation updates. Maps are placed around Founders Hall to direct you to new locations. Please also pay close attention to parking. To ensure you do not receive fines, make sure to park in student parking designated lots.

**TRIO TIP:** Sign up for Westmoreland's Emergency Alert text messages. With renovations, weather and the upcoming winter season, you want to be prepared!

## Drop-In Workshop Series:

TRIO is planning exciting workshops with fun and creative activities! Drop-in to one or all of our workshops this Fall. More information coming soon!

### Paint-a-Piggy Bank

**Tuesday, September 24, 2019 • 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. • Student Center**

Design your own piggy bank and learn about savings!

### Make Your Own Stress Ball

**Wednesday, October 23, 2019 • 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. • Student Center**

Make your own stress ball and learn money management tips to keep the stress away!

### Holiday Cards

**Tuesday, November 19, 2019 • 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. • Student Center AND**

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019 • 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. • Student Center**

Create your own holiday cards and learn about gifting on a budget!

**These workshops will include pizza, drinks and a raffle to win a \$25 gift card!**

## TRIO Celebrates First-Generation Students

Westmoreland County Community College and the TRIO program will celebrate first-generation students through a variety of events and activities around the Youngwood campus on Thursday, November 7, 2019.

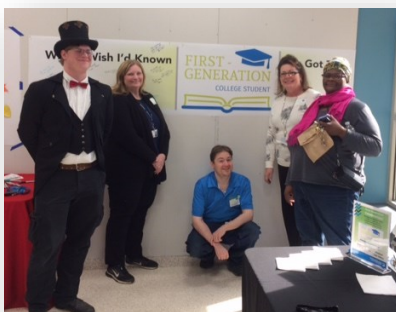
A first-generation student is any student who comes from a family where neither parent has completed a bachelor's degree. Over 80 percent of TRIO students are first-generation.

Although students who are first in their families to attend college might feel unsure about a lot of things, the First-Generation Celebration helps to show that being first-generation is not a limitation or disadvantage. Activities include offering a first-generation badge to students, faculty and staff to proudly announce their first-generation status. A banner will also be on display for adding words of wisdom like "you're not alone" and "walking in the first time was the hardest part." In addition, brief interviews with first-generation faculty, staff and students about their experience will play on digital screens across campus that week.

The [Center for First-Generation Student Success](#) encourages all first-generation students to share their stories on social media using the hashtag #CelebrateFirstGen. The Center hopes the presence on social media will spark a national conversation, celebrating first-generation students across the country.

**First-Generation Celebration • Thursday, November 7, 2019**

**More information coming soon!**



## Planning to Transfer?

It's never too early to start planning for a successful transfer. The Transfer Fair is a great way to start! Admission counselors from colleges and universities, both near and far, will be on campus for our upcoming Fall Transfer Fair. Take advantage of them coming to you and stop by to learn about their programs, admission process, campus and more!

**Westmoreland County Community College**  
**Wednesday, October 9, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**  
**Student Achievement Center (Founders Hall)**

Here are a few universities who regularly attend Westmoreland Transfer Fairs:



## Annual Survey Results

At the end of each year, students are invited to participate in the TRIO program Annual Survey, a brief anonymous survey aimed to gather information from students on their experience with the TRIO Student Support Services program. Based on your feedback, the majority of respondents were very satisfied with TRIO services! Below are some statistics from those who completed the survey this past Spring 2019:

- The majority of students (59.6%) reported meeting with the TRIO counselors 1-3 times during the year, 25.5% of students reported meeting with the counselors 4-6 times, 6.4% reported meeting with the counselors more than 6 times and 8.5% reported never meeting with the counselors.
- 68.1% of students reported reading TRIO's newsletter, *The Westmoreland Wire*, at least once.
- The TRIO activity with the highest rating of students being "very satisfied" was "meeting with counselors" (87.8%). The TRIO activities with the next highest ratings of students being "very satisfied" were "school supplies" (77.8%) and "Progress Reports" (77.5%).
- The TRIO activities with the highest rating of usefulness were "Progress Reports" (88.1%) and "meeting with counselors" (84.2%).
- The majority of students (61.4%) rated their TRIO experience as "excellent".
- 31.1% indicated interest in participating in the TRIO mentoring program.
- 88.9% were "likely" or "very likely" to recommend TRIO to a friend or fellow student.

Thank you to all who completed the survey. Our goal is to provide support, encourage excellence and help students achieve academic success. The information gathered from the survey is being used to make improvements to enhance the program based on YOUR feedback!

### TRIO is here to help!

Email, call or stop by the TRIO office to talk to a TRIO counselor.

Mark Harrison: [harrisonm@westmoreland.edu](mailto:harrisonm@westmoreland.edu), 724-925-4159

Daisy Schropp: [schroppd@westmoreland.edu](mailto:schroppd@westmoreland.edu), 724-925-4000, ext. 3190

Rena Sever: [severr@westmoreland.edu](mailto:severr@westmoreland.edu), 724-925-4000, ext. 3359



**Westmoreland-Youngwood**  
**TRIO@my.westmoreland.edu**  
**Business & Industry Center (BIC), Room 4401**  
**724-925-4006**

**Julie Greathouse**, Director, Student Success

**Vicki Walker**, Program Coordinator

**Mark Harrison**, Counselor

**Daisy Schropp**, Counselor

**Renaee Sever**, Counselor

**Carol Miller**, Clerk

**Jill Albright**, Mathematics Specialist

**Ruth McDonald**, Reading/Writing Specialist

TRIO/SSS is a federally funded grant program that provides supportive services to help students reach their academic goals. TRIO/SSS strives to help students succeed in college.

**Visit us online:** [westmoreland.edu](http://westmoreland.edu) or

 **Facebook:** [TRIO at Westmoreland County Community College](https://www.facebook.com/TRIOatWestmorelandCountyCommunityCollege)

 **Twitter:** [@TRIO WEST](https://twitter.com/TRIO_WEST)

[Click here for the TRIO web page](#)

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**TRIO**

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES



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Text @triowest to 81010 (412-685-4721)

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to stay In touch with TRIO counselors and up-to-date on the latest news and events! Sign up for remind.com text alerts to receive Instant alerts from the TRIO team!