

ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

One Center. Many By Your Side.



Welcome to the Academic Success Center's (ASC) quarterly newsletter. We hope this communication will help spread the word about the work we do to support students and faculty. There are many of us in the ASC, but our goal is the same - successful student outcomes.

WHAT'S NEW



The **Academic Success Peer Mentors** engaged with students during the Library's **Annual Campus Theme** kick-off event held on September 14 in the Learning Commons.

During this event, academic support units and library departments showcased upcoming events, displays, discussions, and featured collections that support the University-wide theme of "Blue Connections". Students enjoyed free pizza, swag, and prizes, and learned more about the significance of our oceans and coastal waterways as they directly shape global economies.



Students from the **TRiO Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program** will be presenting at multiple conferences this month. One will be presenting at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS), and another will be presenting at the American Speech-Language-Hearing (ASHA) Convention. In addition, four scholars are preparing manuscripts for publication submissions.

Pictured on the left: Program staff hosted the McNair Scholars Research Luncheon allowing scholars to showcase their research projects for faculty members, mentors, and university stakeholders.

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THE MONARCH INTERNSHIP & CO-OP OFFICE

Off & Running

In the initial 90 days since its inception, the Monarch Internship and Co-Op office has made impressive progress, engaging with hundreds of students and guiding them toward internships that directly align with their career aspirations.

The results have been outstanding as students have received guidance and referrals to diverse internships, including placements at Riverside Health Systems, law enforcement, and cybersecurity internships, on-campus research placements, and more. These internships not only offer valuable real-world experience but also pave the way for students to begin building their professional networks.

On Thursday, September 21, ODU hosted Huntington Ingalls – Newport News Shipyard Day on campus. The Monarch Internship and Co-Op Office supported this event by bringing together students looking for internship and Co-Op placements with representatives from the HII/NNS corporation. The office pop-up outside Webb Center collected 104 student sign-ups. It was a day of connections, where aspirations met opportunities.

On October 17, office staff participated in the 2023 Fall Career Fair in the Chartway Arena and met with 145 ODU students requesting internship support along with 38 employers wanting to host ODU interns. These events exemplify the Monarch Internship and Co-Op Office's commitment to supporting students in their professional journey.

Apart from assisting students, the Monarch Internship and Co-Op Office places a strong emphasis on the professional growth of ODU advisors, mentors, and coordinators who play a pivotal role in guiding students through their work-based learning experiences.

"Internship BINGO" was a successful event on October 24 and 25, both on campus and online with 24 faculty and staff participating. The Focus Group provided invaluable insights into best practices, fostering partnerships, and accessing resources for 24 staff and faculty. This collective knowledge ensures that students are provided with the most effective support to gain substantial work experiences outside the classroom.

Stay tuned for further exciting developments from the Monarch Internship and Co-Op Office. Together, we are shaping the future of our students and preparing them for success in the professional world.

To learn more about the Monarch Internship & Co-op Office, visit odu.edu/internship or call 757-683-JOBS.



Huntington Ingalls - Newport News Shipyard Day on campus



2023 Fall Career Fair



"Internship BINGO"



BARBARA A. BLAKE

Executive Director

Monarch Internship & Co-op Office

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TRIO PROGRAMS

Full Steam Ahead



TRiO Students Explore George Mason Graduate Programs & Sustainability Initiatives

Our vibrant TRiO community—comprising of SSS, McNair, and Upward Bound students—recently embarked on an enlightening trip to George Mason University. This was not just a typical tour; our students were given an immersive experience into graduate programs and the cutting-edge Water Shed Sustainability Center. From hands-on live-wire demonstrations to exploring innovative tiny houses and witnessing real-time oil spill cleanups, the day was filled with valuable insights. And what makes this trip even more special? It marked the beginning of many more all-TRiO program excursions that aim to bridge experiences across our programs.



TRiO Team Shines at the VAEOPP Conference in Va. Beach

The sun wasn't the only thing shining bright in VA Beach as our entire TRiO team attended the VAEOPP Conference. It wasn't just about gaining knowledge; it was about bonding and camaraderie. Many of our staff members proudly stood out, being recognized as new attendees.



SSS' Inaugural Industry Dinner: Networking, Learning, and Success

The conference also celebrated leadership within our team. Two dedicated members were elected into key positions, a testament to their dedication and expertise. Sharing our wealth of experience, two of our talented programs enlightened the audience in breakout sessions. Their insights on "Living Your Dreams" and strategies for "Doing More with Less to Increase Program Engagement" were received with much enthusiasm. The conference was not just a learning experience, but a stage where TRiO's talent shined bright.

Taking a giant leap in bridging the academic and professional worlds, SSS recently hosted its first-ever Industry Dinner. Leading employers from our community, representing prestigious organizations like ADP, Sentara, Portsmouth Public Schools, and even the esteemed COO of Operation Smile, graced the event.



PASSION STUDIVANT

**Senior TRiO Officer &
Director of TRiO Student Support Services**
TRiO Programs

Our students were presented with a golden opportunity to dine with these industry geniuses, discuss internship and employment opportunities, and understand the real-world expectations. What's more? A specially curated mocktail hour allowed our students to put their networking skills to the test, simulating real-world professional interactions. The evening was not just about dining; it was about learning, networking, and setting the stage for future success. Given the event's massive success, it's safe to say this initiative is here to stay, and we're eager to see it grow in the coming years.

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ANNUAL CAMPUS THEME (ACT)

Blue Connections

Fashion Merchandising students in Joy Kelly's SEPS 427 course participated in the Barry Art Museum's **Fantastic Planet Public Art Festival** turning marine debris into fashionable art. This project was part of a research proposal titled, "Interdisciplinary Research on Fashion related to Maritime, Supply Chain, and Logistics," sponsored in part by Annual Campus Theme.

Bringing awareness to the impact plastic pollution has on our waterways, students created attention-grabbing fashion items using waste material salvaged from local waterways. Student creations were highlighted in a Fashion and Function fashion show to capture attention and facilitate water stewardship conversations with the public.



To learn more about courses and events that reflect the **Annual Campus Theme**, visit odu.edu/themed-year.

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LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Impact Learning Communities tour NASA Langley Research Center

The Office of Academic Success Initiatives & Support and its **Academic Initiatives team** worked together with the Office of Leadership & Learning to bring students to NASA Langley. Students in Engineering Learning Communities attended the NASA Langley Open House on October 21st.

As part of a collaborative effort between the Impact Learning Communities and Living-Learning Communities programs, Career Development Services, and the Honors College, approximately 30 students traveled to NASA Langley to tour the facilities, participate in project demonstrations and activities, and learn from experts in the field. The experience offered valuable career insight for future engineering majors.



To learn more about Impact Learning Communities, visit odu.edu/asis/learningcommunities.

DID YOU KNOW?:

High Impact Practices (HIPs) such as learning communities offer a structured, student-centered, integrative learning experience in- and outside the classroom. Data show that these students tend to have more successful outcomes with increased engagement in the classroom.



LASHAY MCQUEEN

Director of Academic Initiatives,
Office of Academic Success Initiatives & Support (ASIS)

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ADVISING AVENUE

The College of Arts & Letters Advising Team Represents at ODAN

On Tuesday, October 10, the Old Dominion Advising Network (ODAN) hosted its 11th Fall Advising Conference. ODAN provides professional development opportunities to campus constituencies involved in all aspects of advising through the exchange of ideas, best practices, and latest trends.

Members of the College of Arts & Letters Advising Center, presented and won awards.



Advisors pictured from left to right: Sierra Garrett, Tammy Nielsen, Tanisha Bradley (Director of Advising for the College of Arts & Letters), and Staci Kohen

PRESENTATIONS

Be a Hero in their Story: Knowing How to Work with Transfer Students, *Staci Kohen, College of Arts & Letters Advising Center and Anna Lacy, Batten College of Engineering Advising Center*

The team aimed to educate peers on the basics of transfer advising processes.

Supercharging Student Success: Uniting Monarch Foundations for Future Success, *Tanisha Bradley and Sierra Garrett, College of Arts & Letters Advising Center*

The team highlighted student success rates yielded through first-year seminar courses and the benefits of such courses being offered to a larger and equitable number of students.



ODAN New Advisor Award

Sierra Garrett, First Year Advisor

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TUTORING & MENTORING CENTRAL

ODU has over 12 different tutoring centers across campus supporting hundreds of undergraduate courses and employing dozens of undergraduate peer tutors.

The **Academic Success Center** collaborates with all tutoring centers to discuss, coordinate, and evaluate efforts related to formalized tutoring services for students at Old Dominion University with the common goals of supporting student learning in the classroom, improving students' academic performance in challenging courses, and increasing student retention. For a complete listing of centers and supported courses, please visit odu.edu/success/academic/tutoring.

12	100+	361	1650
TUTORING CENTERS	COURSES SUPPORTED	TUTORING REQUESTS	TUTOR.COM SESSIONS
		SUMMER 22 - SPRING 23	SUMMER 22 - SPRING 23

TUTORING CENTER SPOTLIGHT



MEGAN MIZE, PH.D.

**Director for ePortfolio &
Digital Initiatives**

*Office of Academic Success
Initiatives and Support (ASIS)*

With over ten years of experience, Dr. Megan Mize facilitates the implementation of digital high impact practices (HIPs) to foster integrative learning. Her research focus spans digital ethics, multimodal composition, and the labor of high-impact practices. Her work appears in AePR, Peitho, Field Guide, and a co-authored chapter in Graduate Students at Work titled "It's Dangerous to Go Alone: Explorations of Unbalanced Labor, Mentorship, and Transitions."

TOP 5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT... the ePortfolio Studio

- 1 Location:** Perry Library Learning Commons 1313 and online
- 2 Flexible Tutoring:** Offers online and in-person sessions, both synchronous and asynchronous. (Make an appointment via odu.edu/eportfoliosupport).
- 3 Services:** Assists with ePortfolio development, content organization, digital skills, and more.
- 4 Common Student Concerns:** ePortfolio creation, content selection, design choices, digital literacy, and effective self-presentation.
- 5 Student Feedback:** Students report enhanced ePortfolios, improved digital proficiency, and/or increased academic success.

One student shared, "I really find the comments and suggestions very helpful. After making the changes, my page looks a lot better, and I got great feedback from my peers in class. Again, thank you so much, anyone else who is new to it or struggles with creating a page should definitely use this service."

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STUDENT WORKER SPOTLIGHT



RAYONNA MURRAY

**Graduate Academic
Success Mentor**
*Office of Academic
Success Initiatives &
Support (ASIS)*

Currently pursuing a master's degree in Speech Language and Pathology, Rayonna serves as a graduate-level Academic Success Mentor within the Office of Academic Success Initiatives & Support.

As such, she helps support our **Academic Success Mentoring Program** by recruiting, training, and supervising undergraduate academic success mentors. Collectively, they work together to develop content for the program's "The LOOP" blog, website, and academic skills CORE resources.

Additionally, Rayonna and the mentors meet one-on-one with students to help develop and refine strategies for studying, note taking, goal setting, organization, and more.

Our program would be unsuccessful without the feedback and help of our student employees. Thank you, Rayonna!

FACULTY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



JONATHAN LOPEZ

Senior Lecturer
Sociology & Criminal Justice

Jonathan Lopez is a seasoned Learning Communities faculty member. He teaches SOC 201S in both the Criminal Justice Impact Learning Community and the Health Professions Impact Learning Community/Living Learning Community.

He's been a dedicated partner of both kinds of communities since the beginning of each program. Students look forward to his annual movie night for the Health Professions group and the Norfolk Zoo trip for both groups.

Faculty like Jonathan Lopez are crucial to the success of our Learning Communities programs and the students within them. We appreciate the time and effort used to plan engaging activities every year. Thank you, Jonathan.

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FEATURED PROGRAM

LeADERS: Learning through Active Discovery, Engagement, Reflection, and Showcase

THE NUMBERS

682

PROGRAM
CANDIDATES

460

LEADERS
COURSES

431

DISTINCTIONS
AWARDED

120

CURRICULUM
GUIDES



LANAH STAFFORD, PH.D.

Director for High Impact Learning Initiatives
Office of Academic Success Initiatives &
Support (ASIS)

Currently led by the Director of High Impact Learning Initiatives, Dr. Lanah Stafford, LEADERS aims to help students find and complete high-impact courses, make the most out of their time at ODU, and prepare for life after graduation.

At the completion of the LeADERS program, LeADERS graduates complete a comprehensive ePortfolio that showcases what they've learned and experienced, positioning them as a professional and/or scholar in their chosen fields of study.

To learn more about the LEADERS program, contact Lanah Stafford at lstaffor@odu.edu.

OUR MISSION

Housed inside the Student Success Center, the Academic Success Center (ASC) empowers learners to thrive academically, personally, and professionally. The Academic Success Center provides an inclusive environment dedicated to building authentic relationships and community, fostering meaningful learning experiences, and collaborating with learners as they pursue their passion and purpose.

In keeping with the mission of the University, the Academic Success Center advocates for all Monarchs and actively supports their pursuit of excellence at ODU and beyond.



MARISSA A. JIMENEZ

Interim Assistant Vice President
for Academic Success and
Executive Director of the
Academic Success Center

To learn more about the Academic Success Center or have ideas for future collaborations, please contact Marissa at mjimenez@odu.edu

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