

Submitter: Breeawna McLaughlin
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Breeawna McLaughlin; I have been a student at Klamath Community College since 2023 and a TRiO student since September 2024. In the summer of 2022, my mother had a massive stroke. It was then that I found myself heartbroken and alone, without my best friend. I was lost and had no where to turn really, but I knew that I wanted to make my mother proud before she passed. This is really what led me to enrolling at KCC. I have been a distance education student for almost the entirety of my enrollment, meaning I take most of my classes online and study independently. I took pride in the fact that I could problem solve on my own and could essentially "teach myself" what I needed to know for my degree. The campus felt large and daunting; I didn't know anyone and was definitely not comfortable enough to seek out resources for myself. TRiO changed that for me. After I was accepted, I found myself blending into a community that I never knew was here at KCC. I was recently recognized and asked to speak at an honors luncheon that TRiO holds for their students. It felt amazing to be recognized, but when I gave that speech, it really confirmed that I was a part of a community that cared. The resources TRiO offers like one-on-one tutoring, snacks and food available for students and TRiO Talk Topics that include how to transfer to a four-year college, have made and continue to make my community college experience a successful and comfortable. I have consistently been able to depend on my TRiO advisors to be there for me whenever I have a question or need some guidance pertaining to my academic plan. On a personal level, the TRiO staff truly care for their students. I pointed out having snacks for the students earlier, there has been more than one time when I wouldn't have been able to eat anything for the day if it wasn't for the food that TRiO provides. They make sure that we know which classes pair best with one another to ensure our success. If we struggle, they check in and help bring us back to passing before we even have a chance to fail. I am so grateful for this program and the staff who run it. In a sense, I lost my mom before I came to college, but when I joined TRiO, I acquired three women who look out for me and hold me accountable in the same way she would have. I am only one person who has chosen to speak out about how important TRiO is, but trust that every student in the organization has been positively affected by this organization and the staff who facilitate it.

Thank you for giving me a chance to give you some insight as to how impactful TRiO has been to me; I truly appreciate the opportunity.

Regards,

Breeawna McLaughlin