



# TRiO Programs Newsletter 2013-14



**Matt Williamson—  
Editor**

## Inside this issue:

OSP Intervention	2
Delta Links & Omega Scholars on the Move	2
Upward Bound	2
USCL Peer Advisor Leaders (PAL)	3
5TH Annual Soul Food Cook Off	3
Meet our Graduates!	4
Meet our Academic Honors!	4

## Early Start

To start college your first year can be somewhat a scary experience. New faces and different cultural backgrounds add to the doubt. These feelings of anxiety were apparent with our new group of 35 Early Starters which began on Monday, July 29, 2013.

The intense three week summer program, which began on Monday, July 29, 2013, proved to be an eye opening experience participants will never forget.

The program is designed to assist incoming first year students in making a smooth transition from high school to college. Participants can earn up to four credit hours by the end of the semester.

The course load for the



*Samantha Bell, Kenauana Brown, Laquisha Canty, Joshua Cardenas, Tatyana Catoe, Karina Contreras, Shaquala Cunningham, Miriam Gilchrist, Crystal Hayes, Micah Hayes Breanna Horne, Kelly Horne, Tatianna Johnson, Jennifer Knight, Briante' Mckinney, Danielle Miller, Treasure Mobley, Keon Montgomery, Chanda Nivens, Priti Patel, Shivangi Patel, Abraham Paxtor, Quantearia Poag, Ki-yomi Prince, Anthony Randisi, Taylor Ray, Merissa Robidoux, Jae Rogers, Autumn Thomas, Quantavius Thornwell, Jesse Todd, Princess Wade, Kareem Witherspoon, Aailyah Young and Jared Young.*

participants included instructions from USCL faculty, TRiO staff and community leaders on a range of topics to connect with the local community and help prepare them for a changing and diverse world. Participants discussed various learning styles, critical thinking, note-taking and test taking techniques. They

band together in a simulation game—Survival which tasked them to identify and trust the skills within their groups to survive a dangerous situation.

On the final day, Thursday, August 15, 2013, participants received a Certificate of Completion and numerous school supplies.

## Welcome Back to USCL

Ah, new faces, expectations and opportunities filled the campus at USCL as new and returning student met with their advisors on Thursday, August 22, 2013.

OSP staff provided participants with necessary instructions in developing

strategies to achieve academic success and to become a self-directed learner throughout their college experience.

OSP participants were exposed to a host of academic, career and cultural activities and had access to state-of-the-art computers in the TRiO Learning Resource Center.

The OSP staff helped participants

developed a system of essentials based on accepting their best learning style that will lead to successful outcomes, such as good study habits, sound time management, attending class, interacting with professors and classmates, completing assignments in a timely manner. A culmination of these essentials contributed to academic success.

OSP participants are expected to do well academically. OSP staff closely monitor each student's schedule, course work, grades, etc., during each semester. Our *Academic Specialist* work closely with professors to ensure that each OSP participant is successfully passing and completing course work. In the event that the student is experiencing dif-



OSP participants pose for a picture in the Rose Garden. Pictured are Jamieson Huey, Treasure Mobley, Brenna Horne, Jennifer Knight, Jada Rogers and Micah Hayes.

ficulties in a class, a plan of action is developed with the student to overcome those obstacles.

The *Career/Cultural Specialist* works closely with participants to make sure they are having a smooth semester and can assist with financial aid, career, transfer and personal counseling. In addition,

OSP staff keep participants informed of the *Lunch-N-Learn* workshops made available throughout the semester to help with decision making, goal setting, job search, money management, note taking, stress management, test anxiety and time management. Additional resources include the *Academic Success Center*, *Medford Library* and the *Counseling Center*.

OSP participants benefit from such programs as the *Summer School Grant Aid*, the *Spring Stress Free Zone* and the *USCL Emergency Textbook Scholarship*.

## Delta Links & Omega Scholars on the Move

Women and men of various backgrounds proved they all share a passion for hard work. And their hard work enabled them to make a difference in the lives of families and individuals in the local community. During the month of November, 2014, *Delta Links* and *Omega Scholars* gathered donations of canned food items, lotion, shower caps, shaving cream, cereals to serve a total of 51 boys and 47 girls residing

at the *Lancaster Children's Home, Inc.* During the month of December they provided clothes and toys to the *Angel Tree Program* administered by *Christian Services* and *The Salvation Army* by sponsoring 50 Angels that allowed a positive Christmas memories for 710 children representing 305 families. Furthermore, they collected over 50 coats and hats for local children attending school at *Clinton Elemen-*

*tary*, and *Erwin Elementary* and *Southside Early Childhood Center* for the entire month January, 2014. They assisted with the *4th Annual Soul Food Cook-Off* that raised funds for the *USCL Emergency Textbook Scholarship* held on Wednesday February 19, 2014. And sponsored the *Fifth Annual Omega Scholars Basketball Tournament Hoops for Family Promise of Lancaster County* on Friday, March 7, 2014.

## Upward Bound

The *Upward Bound Program* consists of an Academic Year Program and a Summer Program at no cost to participants. A maximum of sixty students from *Andrew Jackson High School*, *Buford High School*, and *Lancaster High School* were accepted from 9th and 10th grades to participate in the program. Students who remain in the program receive academic reinforcement in English,

Math, Science and foreign language, receive instructions on topics in career exploration, personal development, and academic survival skills for high school and college. In addition, they receive one-on-one academic and personal counseling, tutoring, will attend several college campuses throughout South Carolina and will participate in cultural events at various camps and parks.



UB participants pose for a picture in front Founder Federal Credit Union Headquarters in Lancaster, South Carolina on Friday, June 28, 2013.

## USCL Peer Advisor Leaders (PAL)



TRiO participants have achieved another milestone. For the consecutive second year, OSP participants have been selected as **PALs**.

To become a **USCL PAL** is not easy to achieve. Laura Humphrey, **Director of Student Life** and **Advisor to PAL** and her selection committee look for students who are confident, have a stellar GPA, have good oral and written communication skills, and outgoing personality, a desire to help others, have strong work ethics, and the ability to work under pressure. Each **PAL** receives a \$750.00 tuition stipend for Fall and Spring semes-



Left to right: Mitesh Patel (OSP), Brandon Newton, Micah Hayes (OSP), Priti Patel (OSP), Jared Young (OSP), Carly Adams, Amber Hildreth (OSP), Kristen Hammond, Hunter Faile, Regan Steele, Miriam Gilchrist (OSP), Summer Truesdale, Sarahy Aviles (OSP), Jefferey Steele, Kayla Starnes, Vince Felix, and Alex Nauert

ters and will receive leadership training through a sixteen weeks course in the Spring and attend the **Southern Region Orientation Workshop**.

We are very honored and proud

TRiO participants were selected as new **PALs**. These new **PALs** are no strangers to the requirements because they are active leader in both the **Delta Links** and **Omega Scholars** peer mentoring organizations.

## BBQ Fundraiser



Nothing inspires like a good story with spirit and purpose. With budget reductions for SGA organizations for the foreseeable future, **Delta Links** and **Omega Scholars** decided to band together, roll up their sleeves and get busy with a good ole fashion BBQ sale on Friday, November 1, 2013.

Both groups were able to up-sell the plates to faculty, staff, students and

businesses. At eight dollars a plate, most consider it a bargain considering the meal included a healthy portion of BBQ, beans, cole slaw, roll, banana pudding and a bottle of water. They were able to raise \$800.00.

As premiere organizations at USCL, their passion to make a difference have inspired fellow students that anything is possible if you work at it.

## 5th Annual Soul Food Cook-Off



The **5th Annual Soul Food Cook Off** was the premiere event in the month of February, 2014. Several local chefs and their teams prepared favorite dishes in competition for trophies in several categories. All proceeds went to the **USCL Emergency Textbook Scholarship**.

This **Delta Links** and **Omega Scholars** sponsored fundraiser will make it

possible for fellow classmates to apply for the **Emergency Textbook Scholarship**. Hundreds of locals attend this event held in the **Bradley, Multipurpose Room** on Wednesday, February 19, 2014.

Any USCL student who has successfully completed at least 12 credit hours at USCL with a minimum of a 2.50 grade-point average and is en-

rolled in at least 12 credit hours for the current semester, may qualify.

Students are very thankful for this scholarship because there is just not enough funds available to purchase books that may cost \$100.00 to \$200.00 each.



## Meet our Graduates!



Commencement Day is a honored event on the USCL campus. Degree Candidates gathered with friends, family, faculty and staff in Bundy Auditorium on Saturday, May 2, 2014. TRiO had 28 OSP participants who



qualified as candidates to graduate and the following participants received their degrees:

### **(Spring 2014)**

Kylie Baker, William Bell, Tyesha

Brown, Jada Brice, Brittany Johnson, Sarahy Aviles, Jeremiah Burr, Trevaris Clyburn, Christopher Harris, Amber Hildreth, Tonia Cater, Luke Chesser, Stephanie Colon, Leona Harris, Marquisha Stevens, Sheniqua Dowell, Jacob Murphy, Dabney Rorie, Duchess Thompson, and Julia Truesdale **(Summer II & Fall 2013)** LaQue Champion, Tyrie Rowell, Shaquana Brown, Shanta Hoover, Shanique Moore, Katrina Grier, Katrina Massey and Jessica Blakeney

## Meet our Academic Honors!



The TRiO staff salutes the following OSP participants for their hard work and dedication to excel academically for Fall 2013 semester:

### **President's Honor Roll**

**Kershaw:** Summer Truesdale **Lancaster:** Jennifer Knight, Mitesh Patel and Jesse Todd

### **Dean's List**

**Bethune:** Kiyomi Prince **Camden:** Breanna Horne  
**Fort Mill:** Joshua Cardenas, Takyra Curry and Abraham Paxtor  
**Great Falls:** Daquan Evans **Indian Land:** Joseph Brown  
**Kershaw:** Crystal Hayes  
**Lancaster:** Patricia Alexander, Samantha Bell, LaDasia Blakeney, Kenauana Brown, Karina Contreras, Chiquita Evans, Katrina Grier, Nishanta Hall, Jacob Hendrix, Amber Hildreth, Rachel McKissick, Chanda Nivens, Pritiben Patel, Shivangi Patel, Keleigh Serafini, Angela Stevenson, Autumn Thomas, and Keeonn Wilson **Mount Groghan:** Jeremiah Burr  
**Ridgeway:** Jared Young **Rock Hill:** Miriam Gilchrist

### **Palmetto Programs**

**Lancaster:** Priscilla Bufford and Julia Seegars  
**Pageland:** Jessica Blakeney

## TRiO Programs



The TRiO Programs at USC Lancaster is a federally funded program that provides opportunities for Academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and serves to motivate students towards the successful completion of their post secondary education.

### TRiO Staff

Thelathia B. Bailey, Director of TRiO Programs (SSS, UB and Gear Up), Director of University 101, and Adjunct Professor

Max Bonek, OSP Academic Specialist

Matt Williamson, OSP Career/Cultural Specialist

CoSonja Allen, OSP Administrative Specialist

Diva Hemphill, UB Academic Specialist

Peggy Frazier, UB Career/Cultural Specialist

Cathy McGriff, UB Administrative Specialist

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