

July 2023

Meet the Staff

Tanya Brashers, Director

The Eldon L. Norman
Educational
Opportunity Center
(Pensacola Campus)

Angela Anderson,
Student Services Specialists

Wanda Wood
Student Services Specialists

Tina Clapper,
Admin Asst/Data Manager

MaryAnn Sharp,
Data Specialist

Warrington Campus

Obi Kalu,
Student Services Specialists

Tashara Cooper,
Admin Asst.

Milton Campus

Robin Giacin,
Student Services Specialist

Susan Williams,
Admin Asst.

TRIO

EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY CENTERS

Financial Aid • Admissions • Educational & Career Guidance

What is the TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC)?

TRIO EOC is a grant program designed to assist low to moderate income individuals and or those that are first-generation students enter a college, university, or technical school of their choice.

WE CAN HELP! FOR FREE!

Do you know someone that has made the decision to further their education and enroll in a postsecondary school? Not sure where to start? Need help understanding how to apply or how to pay for it?

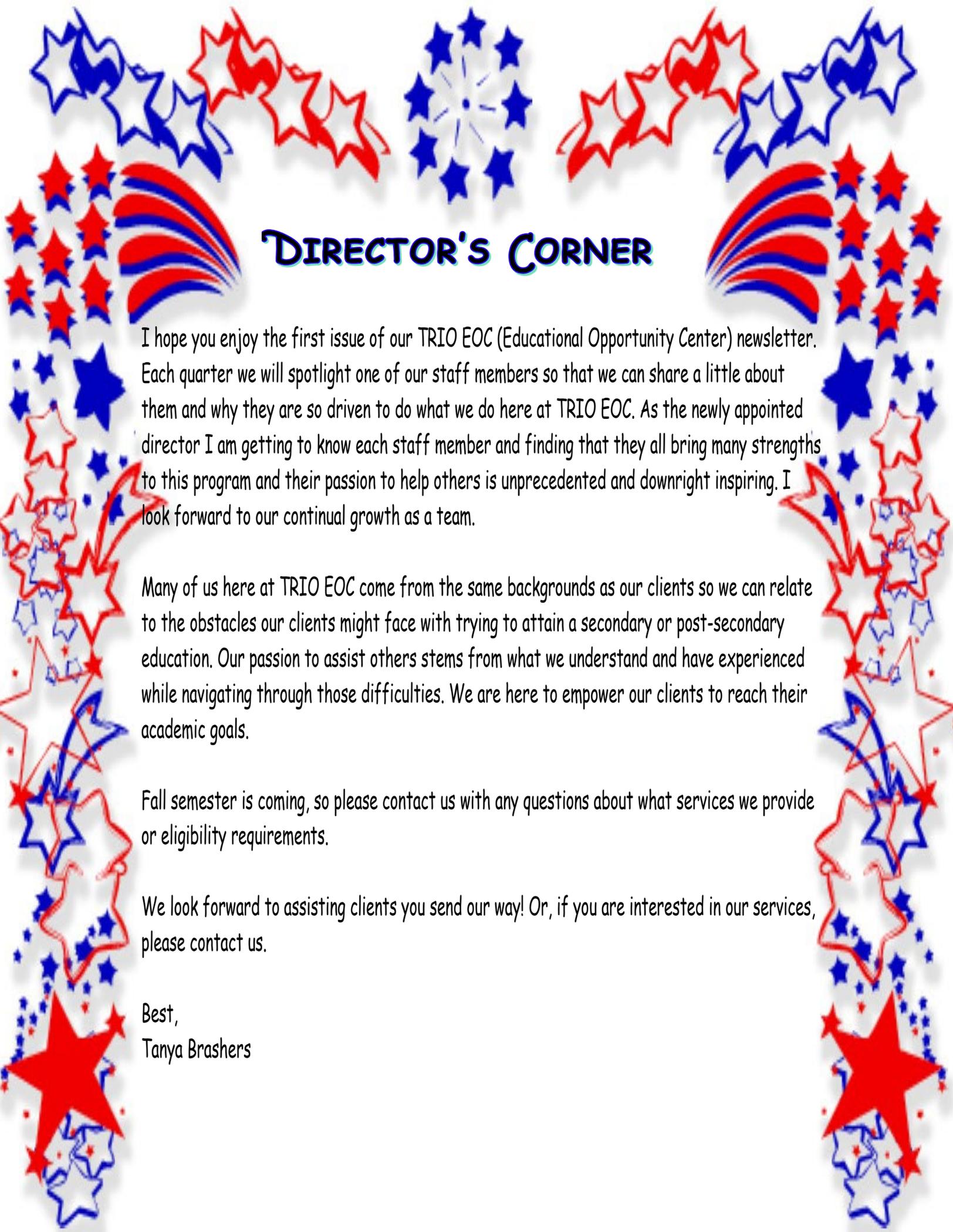
The EOC can help! Our **FREE services** are designed to take the guesswork out of beginning or continuing your higher education.

We can help you to determine which college, university, technical/vocational, or career program is right for you. We can also assist with applying to your school of choice, and with applying for the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). The EOC Specialist can assist with providing additional grant and scholarship information to assist in your search for funding your education.

We have simplified the process to get started!

Take the first step and contact one of our offices listed in this newsletter!



The page is framed by a decorative border of stars and fireworks. At the top, there are clusters of blue and red stars, some with white outlines, and a central white starburst. Below these are two large, stylized firework bursts with red, white, and blue stripes. The sides of the page are lined with vertical columns of stars, alternating between red and blue colors, some with white outlines. At the bottom, there are more clusters of stars, including a large red star on the left and a large red star on the right.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

I hope you enjoy the first issue of our TRIO EOC (Educational Opportunity Center) newsletter. Each quarter we will spotlight one of our staff members so that we can share a little about them and why they are so driven to do what we do here at TRIO EOC. As the newly appointed director I am getting to know each staff member and finding that they all bring many strengths to this program and their passion to help others is unprecedented and downright inspiring. I look forward to our continual growth as a team.

Many of us here at TRIO EOC come from the same backgrounds as our clients so we can relate to the obstacles our clients might face with trying to attain a secondary or post-secondary education. Our passion to assist others stems from what we understand and have experienced while navigating through those difficulties. We are here to empower our clients to reach their academic goals.

Fall semester is coming, so please contact us with any questions about what services we provide or eligibility requirements.

We look forward to assisting clients you send our way! Or, if you are interested in our services, please contact us.

Best,
Tanya Brashers



Did You Know...



There are **FIVE** *TRIO* Programs hosted at Pensacola State College.





Robin Giacin

*Educational Opportunity Center
Milton Campus*

By Susan Williams

Robin began working at the Milton Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) as a Student Services Specialist, October 1997. Robin is a low-income and first-generation student who was the youngest of six children. Her parents were both World War II Veterans who believed in hard work, not formal education. When Robin graduated from high school in Connecticut, there was no support from the high school administrators for pursuing a post-secondary education. She worked many types of jobs, but she decided that she wanted to help people have better opportunities and financial stability for themselves and their families.

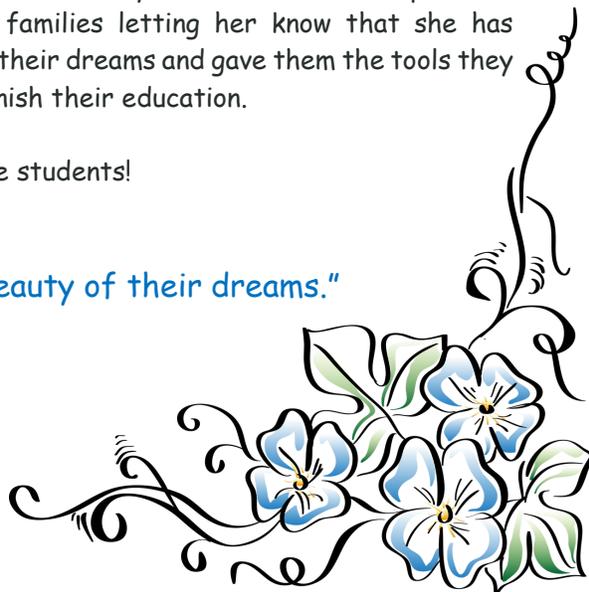
Robin pursued her post-secondary education during her thirty-year marriage while working full-time. She has three degrees from Troy University. She completed her master's degree with honors in Counseling and Psychology. Her vast work experience includes customer service, public speaking, job coaching, job placement, resume writing, job prep interviewing, career center management, career counseling, academic counseling, FAFSA assistance and education counseling.

Robin has worked with the Educational Opportunity Center for a long time because she believes in assisting students and their families. She has worked with several generations of family members in Santa Rosa County. What fills her cup? The students and their families letting her know that she has helped them realize their dreams and gave them the tools they need to start and finish their education.

Robin is all about the students!



*"The Future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
—Eleanor Roosevelt*



Milton Campus

The Milton Campus PTK held a summer collection drive for Homeless Veterans. They requested small containers of bug spray, sunscreen, soap, toothbrushes & toothpaste, flip flops, baseball hats, ponchos and towels. We asked about games?! They did not have any. No one had thought of this yet! We thought that games would be nice to keep their minds active and promote social interaction. The Milton EOC office came in 2nd place for our collection of items.

Here' s a little clip from Mrs. Hulse's email!

"You have come through when the shelter is in dire need of help. The Trio Office on the Milton Campus, thank you Robin and Susan, came in second. Certificates will be sent to both offices!"---Mrs. Hulse



Warrington Campus



During Spring Finals Week at the Warrington Campus, EOC Specialist, Obi Kalu, served pizza with an encouraging smile!



Obi volunteered her time at PSC's First Annual International Festival.



Obi is at the Explore UWF Day connecting with resources and sharing about FREE EOC services. Over 150 students came through.



College & Career Fair attended by Obi. Obi is pictured with one of her EOC clients who will be pursuing her Nursing Degree at PSC.

The Eldon L. Norman
Educational Opportunity
Center
(Pensacola Campus)



Tanya Brashers,
graduated
from the PSC's
President's Leadership
Institute Class of 2023
CONGRATULATIONS!



Tanya attended PSC's
2023 Commencement Ceremony



Angela presented information about EOC
services to attendees at the Job Fair held
at the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds.



EOC represented at PSC's
Summer Kick Off
Crawfish Boil



Wanda Wood presenting EOC services at the PSC's Cosmetology Orientation.



Tanya attended the Pensacola JACC VA 2k for Veteran Homelessness where she disseminated information regarding the TRIO EOC program to potential clients.



EOC staff working the last scheduled FREE FAFSA workshop held in the Financial Aid Department on the Pensacola Campus.

Pictured left to right - Wanda Wood, Obi Kalu, and Tanya Brashers.

The FREE FAFSA workshops, administered by the PSC's Financial Aid Department and TRIO EOC have been a successful alternative for individuals that need assistance with their financial aid application but needed help outside of normal business hours. At these workshops, students were assisted on a first-come, first-serve basis - no appointment required. Services offered included step-by-step assistance with the FAFSA completion, assistance with the admissions application, and general assistance with the enrollment process. These workshops have been held on a monthly basis, starting in February 2023 and going thru June 2023. The TRIO EOC assisted over 30 countable students with FREE services throughout these workshops.



EOC's very own, Tanya Brashers, was the guest speaker at:

Salute to Sisters in Service

A Women Veterans Day event celebrating the contribution of our sisters in arms and their accomplishments in business

This event was an opportunity to raise money for
the Honor HER Foundation, Inc.

The Honor HER Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 2016 and located on the West Side of Pensacola, in the Myrtle Grove Community. They provide housing and services to homeless women veterans or those endangered of becoming homeless.

***Honor, Empower, and Rebuild ***

Salute to Sisters in Service
A Women Veterans Day event celebrating the contribution of our sisters in arms and their accomplishments in business

FAVOB PENSACOLA
JUNE 8, 2023
6-8:00p

PERFECT PLAIN BREWING COMPANY
GARDEN & GRAIN
50 E Garden St.,
Pensacola, FL 32502

Powered by
 VETERANS FLORIDA
Your Pursuit • Our Power

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES

Speaker
Tanya Brashers
Pensacola State College
Program Director, TRIO Educational Opportunity Center
Navy Hospital Corpsman - Ortho Tech (8489)

*A percentage of proceeds to benefit women veterans initiatives.
www.favob.org

Featured Businesses

2022-2023 Florida FAFSA Challenge

FAFSA Completions for the 2023-2024 Cycle



The FAFSA Challenge encourages each school and district in the state of Florida to increase their FAFSA completion percentage by at least 5% the previous cycle. <https://floridacollegeaccess.org>

The TRIO Educational Opportunity Center Specialists assisted with achieving this goal by collaborating with their assigned high school to plan and attend FAFSA events. Specialists give an overview of EOC services, assist students with the financial aid application (FAFSA) process, assist with the admissions application to the school of their choice, and give general guidance on other grants and scholarships that may be available to the student.

Large Schools (329 – 1148 12 th Graders)	FAFSA Completion Percentage
J.M. Tate Senior High School	34.5%
Pace High School	44.4%
Navarre High School	43.5%
Milton High School	29.3%
Pine Forest High School	19.6%
Gulf Breeze High School	53.0%
Medium Schools (81 – 328 12th Graders)	
Pensacola High School	52.4%
Northview High School	30.5%
Escambia High School	28.6%
West Florida High School	43.7%
Booker T. Washington High School	20.2%
Small Schools (10 – 80 12th Graders)	
Pace Center for Girls, Inc.	41.7%

The Eldon L. Norman
Educational
Opportunity Center
(Pensacola Campus)
1000 College Blvd.
Bldg. 6, Rm. 610
850.484.1961

Contact Us

Warrington Campus
5555 West Hwy 98
Bldg. 3600, Rm. 3640
850.484.2357

Milton Campus
5988 Hwy 90
Bldg. 4200, Rm. 4214
850.484.4455

Email

eoc@pensacolastate.edu

Website

www.pensacolastate.edu/eoc

Social Media

www.facebook.com/EOCPensacola