

**January 2024**

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### **Meet the Staff**

**Tanya Porter, Director**

**Eldon L. Norman**  
**Educational**  
**Opportunity**  
**Center,**  
**Pensacola**  
**Campus**

**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

**E D U C A T I O N A L**  
**O P P O R T U N I T Y C E N T E R S**

**Admissions • Financial Aid • Educational & Career Guidance**

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**The New 2024/2025**  
**FAFSA is Now Available!**



The TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) are now scheduling appointments to assist new students and returning EOC students with the new FAFSA Form, released December 2023, for Academic Year 2024/2025. This FAFSA is effective for the fall term beginning August 2024.

Take advantage of early completion to avoid the rush later in the year!

Contact the EOC to schedule your appointment and let one of our experienced Specialists assist you today!

**TRIO**  
E D U C A T I O N A L  
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**Educational Opportunity Centers**

Pensacola Campus– 850.484.1961

Milton Campus – 850.484.4455

Warrington Campus – 850.484.2357

[eoc@pensacolastate.edu](mailto:eoc@pensacolastate.edu)

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Located on the campuses of Pensacola State College

[pensacolastate.edu/eoc/](https://pensacolastate.edu/eoc/)

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**TRIO**

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

**TRIO**

VETERAN STUDENT  
SUPPORT SERVICES

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VETERANS  
UPWARD BOUNDS

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EDUCATIONAL  
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EDUCATIONAL  
TALENT SEARCH

# DIRECTOR'S CORNER

**Happy New Year from TRIO EOC (Educational Opportunity Center)!**

**I hope you and your loved ones have started the year off safe and healthy. We here at TRIO EOC at Pensacola State College have started the year off gratefully. Grateful for our community partners, grateful for each other, and grateful for our fellow PSC faculty and staff members.**

**The delayed release and changes with the new 2024-2025 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) have brought about some interesting dynamics to start the new year at our offices. However, please do not worry! Our extremely experienced and knowledgeable specialists, here at TRIO EOC, are finding ways to navigate through any challenges the changes to the new FAFSA may be bringing to light. Just remember this new FAFSA is new to us as well. We appreciate your grace and patience as we work through any glitches that come along with any new electronic application. We will keep our participants informed and up to date on any information they might need to ensure their FAFSA is accurate and complete.**

**We are thrilled to collaborate with the Pensacola State College Financial Aid Department in the upcoming Financial Aid Day on February 10, 2024, from 11 am – 2 pm. This will be an exciting opportunity to provide additional assistance to students in need of TRIO EOC services.**

**I look forward to a wonderful Spring semester and inspiring new year with new opportunities for all.**

**Keep moving forward!**

*Tanya Porter*

*"Celebrating a New Year  
And  
New Life Together!"*

*Tanya and Nate  
12.31.2023*

Tanya and Nate said "I Do" in a small intimate ceremony surrounded by a few family members and friends at their home on New Year's Eve.

Tanya was born and raised in Mississippi and is a U.S. Navy Veteran with five years of service. She has two sons - one will be graduating in May 2024 from UWF and the other is currently forward deployed with the U.S. Navy on the USS America.

Nate was born in Wisconsin, but primarily calls Minneapolis, MN home. He has served over 20 years in the U.S. Navy having deployed multiple times and served on several ships. Nate will be retiring on January 31, 2024.

Tanya and Nate love to play music on their wide variety of musical instruments. They love hiking and spending time outdoors. Together they have three fur babies, two dogs - Coco and Cooper, and Marley their cat.

**CONGRATULATIONS TANYA & NATE!**





# Obi Kalu



Obi is a Student Services Specialist with the TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) based on the Warrington Campus. She has been working with the EOC for over 11 years. Obi is a first-generation American and comes from a military family with a Navy background.

Obi started her educational journey at Pensacola State College. She obtained her Bachelor and Master's degrees from Florida State University and is currently pursuing her Doctoral degree at the University of West Florida. Obi shared, "I enjoy learning in and out of the classroom and I am thankful for the support and resources available through individuals and programs like the EOC and other TRIO programs."

When Obi was asked what she likes most about her job, she said "I enjoy working with EOC community partners and EOC participants helping them realize their academic and life goals. It is rewarding to be a resource and help individuals find financial relief to pursue their education." She was asked if there was one student that stood out to her, and Obi told of a participant that became a US citizen and learned English while pursuing their Nursing degree. This student will be graduating soon! Obi has helped many participants decide on and complete a program that was a good fit for them after they had multiple unsuccessful attempts in the past.

Obi enjoys her job with the EOC, teaching, networking and making connections. She likes spending time with family and friends. Additionally, she participates in activities at Pensacola State and with the local PSC-AFC Chapter while being involved in other community activities. Obi says, "Reach out anytime, I would love to connect with you!"



NOV  
8TH

# FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE CELEBRATION

The TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) held their First Annual First-Generation College Celebration with an all-day event recognizing first-generation students. Staff and Faculty were invited to share their story, as well.

Each EOC office held events at their respective campuses. The Pensacola EOC collaborated with TRIO Student Support Services to provide cupcakes, cookies, candy bag treats, photo sessions with props and more! First Gen student's pictures were shared across social media. The Milton EOC served lunch that included chili, cornbread, hotdogs, brownies, cookies and more! The Warrington EOC offered an assortment of goodies and giveaways.







# ***FIRST-GENERATION*** COLLEGE CELEBRATION

First Generation College Celebration is celebrated annually on November 8<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the signing of the Higher Education Act ("HEA") of 1965 by then - President Lyndon B. Johnson.

*Celebration*



*Growth*



*Broad Perspectives*



*New Heights*



- **Celebration** depicts a graduation cap being tossed upward, which connects to the elevation of first-generation college students and their communities.
- **Growth** expresses development and fluidity by evoking the color and form of a series of stems with leaves. This icon harnesses the evolution of personal and professional advancement and highlights the lifelong presence of the first-gen identity in a person's experience.
- **Broad Perspectives** depicts a round window or globe, which is symbolic of the diverse and intersectional first-generation college student and graduate identities.
- **New Heights** portrays a staircase, which connects to mobility and workforce entry, and also ties to the abiding nature of the first-generation college student and graduate identity.

# Financial Aid Day

Saturday, February 10

Building 1 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Pensacola State College • 1000 College Blvd.

[PensacolaState.edu/FinancialAidDay](https://PensacolaState.edu/FinancialAidDay)

## Get free expert help on:

- Financial Aid/How to pay for your education
- Admissions to PSC
- Advising
- Registration Information

## On-site FAFSA filing

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) forms must be filed before Financial Aid is granted.

## Scholarships

Pensacola State College offers over 300 scholarships to eligible students.

## Apply Now!

[PensacolaState.edu/Financial-Aid](https://PensacolaState.edu/Financial-Aid)

For more details, go to [pensacolastate.edu/FinancialAidDay](https://pensacolastate.edu/FinancialAidDay)

## Got questions?

850-484-1095 • [FAVA@pensacolastate.edu](mailto:FAVA@pensacolastate.edu)

**Summer and Fall 2024 Registration  
Begins March 2024**



Find us:





# FREEBIES

THAT TAKE YOU FAR IN LIFE

ALWAYS BE ON TIME  
BEING RESPECTFUL  
SHOWING KINDNESS  
BEING TRUSTWORTHY  
A STRONG WORK ETHIC  
WILLING TO LEARN

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