

# TFCSS Newsletter

*From the Taylor Family Center for Student Success*

December 2024



## First-Gen Week Recap

From November 4 - 8, the WashU community celebrated scholars who are the first in their families to obtain a four year degree by hosting a Kick-Off Reception, a Party at the Polls on election day, a Career Fireside Chat, an outdoor carnival, and a day of rest and relaxation complete with aromatherapy, sound therapy, painting, and more.

Your journey through higher education is unique with its successes and challenges, but you are not alone in your experience. We are so proud of all TFCSS students for their hard work and dedication this year, and we wish you a restful break and a Happy New Year in 2025!

## Mini Message



## **Victoria Ruiz, Assistant Director for Sophomore Soar**

With the end of the semester just around the corner, be sure to pencil in time to reflect on your successes, decompress from challenges, and celebrate your wins! Whether it's by attending our casual events, taking scenic walks around campus, or scheduling time to catch up with your mentor, we encourage you to find what resources work for you.

The Sophomore Soar Mentorship Program is one of those resources we hope are encouraging you to build up and strengthen your support system on campus. Our students are meeting with their mentors bi-weekly in ways that work for them! Your faculty or staff mentor can provide advice, guidance, and feedback as you navigate your path at WashU. Not only that, but we hope that mentors serve as a safe space for you to bounce around ideas, talk through plans, and generally reflect on your semester so far.

If you're interested in joining the program or have questions about other leadership opportunities for sophomore students, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. My door is always open and I know the TFCSS also strives to be your home away from home!

[Read more about our Sophomore Soar Mentorship Program's Fall 2024 Match Day Event here](#)

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# Student Success Fund Updates

For all approved SSF requests, receipts are due to [ssf@wustl.edu](mailto:ssf@wustl.edu) by December 6. Receipts should be itemized and dated. For additional questions about your SSF application, please call Andrea Stewart-Douglas at 314-935-8354 to set up a time to meet. SSF walk-in hours are closed for the Fall semester and will reopen again in late January 2025.

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## HIGHLIGHT

### Professional Clothes Closet Debut a Success

On November 25, WashU students were invited to shop the Professional Clothes Closet in the Office of Scholar Programs, DUC 300, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Over 30 students selected jackets, slacks, blouses, and more at no charge, and were assisted entirely by TFCSS student workers, who had organized and cleaned the space for several weeks leading up to the opening day.

The Taylor Family Center for Student Success and the Center for Career Engagement are expanding the Professional Clothes Closet to ensure equitable access to free business attire for students for work, interviews, professional conferences and events.

The Professional Clothes Closet is open to all WashU students. Students may shop for two outfits with accessories twice a semester. All you need to get in is a student ID.

If you would like to shop the clothing closet, **please join us again on [December 9 from 2p.m. – 4p.m.](#)** You may also schedule an appointment by emailing [studentsuccess@wustl.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@wustl.edu).

If you are interested in donating clean, gently used, business casual or business formal attire to the Professional Clothes Closet, you may drop off items to any of the following locations Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Danforth University Center, Suite 110
  - Bauer Hall, Suite 250
  - Knight Hall, Suite 210
-

# Save the Date - December 9

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

## PROFESSIONAL



### Fall Shopping Dates

November 11 & 25  
December 9

*Please note that you  
will need to bring your  
WashU ID.*

### Location

Office of Scholar Programs  
Danforth University Center,  
Suite 300



Presented by the Center for Career Engagement and the  
Taylor Family Center for Student Success

Fall 2024 Semester Surveys are extended to December 6

Your opinions, experiences, and concerns are highly valued by the TFCSS. By taking surveys, you provide priceless data our staff uses to

create and improve upon existing programming and events to better serve you. If you haven't yet, please take the Fall 2024 Semester Survey by December 6!

First Year Survey

Sophomore - Senior Survey

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## TFCSS Featured Events in December

- Check out the [TFCSS website](#) for the full list of December events.
- Bring your TFCSS punch card to every event to be entered to win a prize before winter break!
- **Turn in your completed punch card to the front desk at DUC 330 by December 13 to be included in the drawing.**

DEC  
03

### All TFCSS Tutoring Session: Calc 1

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**DUC 248**

Drop-in tutoring for all TFCSS students. No RSVP's required.

DEC  
06

### Student Success Fund Approved Requests Receipts Due

Submit by 5:00 p.m.

[ssf@wustl.edu](mailto:ssf@wustl.edu)

For those with approved Student Success Fund requests, please submit itemized receipts via email to [ssf@wustl.edu](mailto:ssf@wustl.edu).

DEC  
09

### Professional Clothes Closet Shopping Event

2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Office of Scholar Programs, DUC 300**

Bring your student ID for the final Professional Clothes Closet shopping event of the year!

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## Student Spotlight



*That white coat suits you!*

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

### Tania Mejia, class of 2027

Meet Tania Mejia, a TRIO scholar and Admin Student Assistant. A current sophomore, Tania is on track to graduate in 2027 with a B.S. in Genomics and Computational Biology and a minor in Medical Humanities (although she is considering getting a double major or double minor in Global Health and Environment!)

As a TRIO Student Admin Assistant, Tania supports TRIO and TFCSS events, sends weekly TRIO emails, sorted donations and organized the Professional Clothing Closet, is helping to plan and carry out the First-Gen Recognition Ceremony slated for May 8.

Tania's favorite part of being in TFCSS "is the sense of community and support everyone brings." Her favorite part of WashU is the campus and how beautiful it is. "It really makes you wanna study outside and enjoy the breeze."

If you are looking to get more involved on campus, Tania recommends joining WuFuego! "It's super fun being to learn different dance styles and also interact with so many different people. Everyone is super nice!"

Would you like to be featured in the Student Spotlight? We want to share your story! Email [hopen@wustl.edu](mailto:hopen@wustl.edu) to be featured in a future newsletter, on the TFCSS Instagram, and on our [website](#).



Taylor STARS

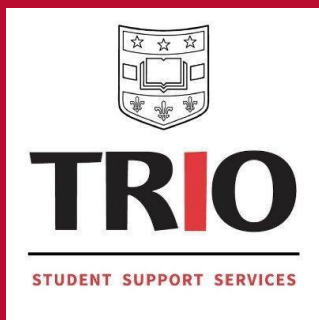
Through our comprehensive four-year transitional program, we empower students with transformative learning experiences designed to enrich their academic journey and foster a resilient growth mindset.

[See Our Website for More →](#)

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## [Featured Event](#)

On December 2, join the TFCSS for a Sophomore Soar Seminar on developing your authentic leadership style with guest speaker, Dr. Victoria Obregon. This is an opportunity to intentionally connect with peers, share space, and enjoy snacks!



## TRIO Student Support Services

The TRIO program provides support to undergraduate scholars that identify as first-generation, limited-income, and/or have a learning or physical disability. The program aims to introduce students to an array of high-impact experiences that aid in their holistic success and help them to maximize their full potential. These include: helping students to connect with mentors, strengthening social and professional network, exploring purpose-driven internships, developing financial literacy, and more!

[See Our Website for More →](#)

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## [Featured Events](#)

T.H.R.I.V.E with TRIO occur on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in DUC 234. The last T.H.R.I.V.E of the year will take place on December 4.



The Kessler Scholars Program at Washington University in St. Louis is part of the national [Kessler Scholars Collaborative](#), along with 15 other institutions. Together, these schools are transforming the undergraduate experience for first-generation college students. Students who join the Kessler Scholars Program are part of a powerful network of first-generation leaders connected across multiple institutions throughout their undergraduate college experience and beyond.

[See Our Website for More →](#)

### [Featured Event](#)

The Kessler End of Semester Sendoff will take place on December 7 at Kokomo Joe's - RSVP's are required!

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## Fall Semester 2024 Important Dates

- Friday, **December 6** - Last Day of classes
- Monday-Wednesday, **December 9 - 11** Reading Days
- Thursday - Wednesday, **December 12 -18** Final Exams
- Monday, **January 13, 2025** First Day of Classes

[Click here for the full 2024- 2025 Bulletin](#)

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### TFCSS Instagram

Follow us!





Taylor Family Center for Student Success

[taylorfamilycenter.washu.edu](http://taylorfamilycenter.washu.edu)

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