

Disability Support Services

Kayleen Hallberg, Kegan Clark, Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd (director), Mercedes Lubbers-Payne

RIO Disability Support Services (DSS) at Wichita State has been in existence since 2001. The goal of the program is to increase college retention and graduation rates for students with learning, physical and psychological disabilities. DSS is one of the first TRIO programs designed specifically for students with disabilities in the state and is currently one of only 56 programs of its kind across the nation.

Program services include academic advising with course selection and degree planning, personal counseling, individualized tutoring, career exploration, study and life skills workshops, financial aid advice, grant aid and scholarships, economic literacy and instruction, computer lab usage, graduate school information and selection, textbook and calculator loan

program, campus and community involvement.

The staff informs faculty, staff, students and community members on program services and educates constituents on effectively assisting students with disabilities.

Program students utilize the adaptive computer lab equipment and tutors to assist them with undergraduate coursework. Students also checkout instructional videos from the program's study skills library.

The annual student recognition ceremony celebrates and acknowledges the achievements of program students, tutors, graduates and scholarship recipients. Support from WSU administrators, faculty, staff, and community leaders are also highlighted.

2017-2018 Highlights

- 13 bachelor degree recipients
- 28 students on the Dean's Honor Roll
- 84% persistence rate
- 97% met academic performance levels required to stay in good academic standing
- 43 students received 943 hours of tutoring for courses totaling 294 credit hours
- Awarded \$13,798 in grant aid, Educational Opportunity Fund, and the Phillip Bowers scholarships

Contact: (316) 978-5949 wichita.edu/dss