



Where Your Academic Success Becomes a Reality.

Real People...Real Life  
**REAL TALK**

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**TRiO PARTICIPANT TESTIFIES BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE**



On Friday, February 27, 2009, TRiO Participant Marvinna Truss testified before the Assembly Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on the Impact of Current and Future Budget Reductions for Higher Education in Nevada. Please read her testimony below.

**Marvinna Truss**  
**Legislative Committee Testimony**  
**Grant Sawyer Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor , Legislative Hearing Room**  
**Friday February 27, 2009 8:00am**

“We will restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology’s wonders to raise health care’s quality and lower its costs. We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories, and we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age. All this we can do. And all this we will do.” ~ President Barack Obama

Hello. My name is Marvinna Truss and I am a CSN student with two options. Option A, with a college degree I will be able to get off of welfare. Option B, without one I will not. I took my first college course at CSN in 2005 and am almost through the window of opportunity promised by higher education. Yet I feel an eminent threat that this same window of opportunity will be replaced by an impenetrable wall of stagnation. I am also a recovering addict who has been clean for 25 years. I have worked diligently towards realizing a lifelong dream of becoming a professional in the field of Addiction Studies. I have been working with recovering addicts for 25 years mentoring them with a raw knowledge and experience gained from the streets. However, I desire a highly developed and effective background in Addiction Studies. This is how CSN has been preparing me to meet the demands of a new age.

Addiction Studies was formerly a 2 year degree program at CSN but has been changed to a 4 year undergraduate degree which I can only complete through transfer to UNLV. My dream is renewed with every course I successfully complete. But what happens when the required course is cancelled due to budget reductions? This semester alone I have met an overwhelming amount of my CSN peers who needed one class to complete their requirements for transfer or graduation to only have that class cancelled. Do you know what 1 semester or 1 class can mean to a student, a single parent, or to the unemployed? Let's not forget, one semester is 4months. If that class happens to be a pre-requisite to the class you really need, one semester could mean an entire academic year. Serious efforts have been made to increase student retention, persistence, and graduation rates; however budget reductions have already begun to negatively impact these efforts. One class cancelled, one less graduate, one less transfer, one less student retained. Multiply that by 41, 000 CSN students. How does this help to prepare us for the demands of a new age?

**Continued on next page.....**

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## Testimony Continued....

I currently have a 3.4 GPA which is made possible not only by my efforts but because of the support of CSN's Tutors, Counselors/Advisors, Retention services, Student Financial Services, TRIO Student Support Services, and Instructors- full-time and adjunct. It has become increasingly more difficult to receive the same level of assistance because there are more students and not enough support staff and faculty. Tutorial Services cannot adequately provide tutors for the amount of student requests especially in math and science. It has become more difficult to meet with professors because more students are relying heavily on instructor assistance due to tutor shortage. I have taken classes at each campus and have felt the consequence of a bare bones student services. For example, in 07-08 the Student to Counselor/Advisor ratio at the Cheyenne campus was 1,452 students for every 1 Counselor/Advisor; Charleston 1, 855 students for every 1 Counselor/Advisor; and Henderson 2,473 students for every 1 Counselor/Advisor. Many students are blindly leading themselves by self advising due to this ridiculously low advisor to student ratio. The way I see it, this is setting many students up for failure from the start because time and money are being wasted by taking random courses, accumulating random credits, and working towards no specific academic goal. Not by choice, but by default. Yet our student population continues to grow but critical student support services do not.

My peers and I should not be forced to attend proprietary schools to complete our education. We simply can't afford to take on the amount of debt such a decision will create. CSN, its degree programs, student support services, faculty and staff is crucial to every type of student and their personal, academic, and professional development. With thousands of people losing their jobs CSN provides an opportunity to retrain for another career, learn new skills to work toward a promotion, obtain the first two years of an undergraduate degree, or complete specialized training in a variety of career fields. If it weren't for CSN I would not be standing before you today. CSN has, is, and will hopefully continue to changes lives one course at a time. However, budget reductions will not contribute to an increase in opportunity, but it will contribute to an increase in dreams deferred and destroyed. I do not want to continue to be a welfare recipient and education affords the opportunity for me to change that. CSN provides the foundation I need to be a productive citizen who can one day re-invest in the people, the state, and country that has invested in me.

Written by Dr. Chemene Crawford, Stephanie Hill, and Marvinna Truss February 26, 2009

## CSN BUDGET RALLY

April 6, 2009 @ 11am

June Whitley Student Center, Cheyenne Campus

TRiO Faculty Progress Reports due by 5pm

April 10, 2009

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## FREE TUTORING

- As a TRiO Participant you may receive up to 2 hours of **FREE** one-on-one **tutoring** from TRiO tutors in **English, Biology, and Math**. Contact TRiO for a referral.
- **Inside the TRiO Lounge**  
**English Lab** every Wednesday 2pm-4pm  
**Math Lab** every Tuesday 11am-1pm
- **SMARThinking** 24/7 **FREE** online tutoring, writing services, and homework help services to help students succeed. Contact TRiO for User ID & password information. Visit SMARThinking @ <http://www.smarthinking.com>

## DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

### the TRiO Experience

Want to get involved and  
interact with other students?

Join the TRiO Experience

Contact Sharnee for more  
information @  
[sharnee.walker@csn.edu](mailto:sharnee.walker@csn.edu)

### TRiO Study Groups

Want to form a study group  
for one of your classes?

Trio can help.

Contact Tony for more  
information @  
[antonio.talavera@csn.edu](mailto:antonio.talavera@csn.edu)

### Never Too Late Student Support Group

Move, Mentor, Motivate

Interested??

Contact Stephanie for more  
information @  
[stephanie.hill@csn.edu](mailto:stephanie.hill@csn.edu)

## HEY, HEY, HEY ... BEFORE YOU PROCEED ...

### CSN Scholarships:

Currently accepting applications  
for 2009-2010 Academic Year

[http://www.csn.edu/admissions/aid/  
options/scholarships.asp](http://www.csn.edu/admissions/aid/options/scholarships.asp)

**APPLY!!**

### CHECK YOUR EMAIL...

**EVERYDAY**

Thank You Very Much,



### Important Dates/ Deadlines

April 21 - Priority Registration  
for Summer 2009 begins

April 28 - Priority Registration  
for Fall 2009 begins

May 10th-16th - Final Exam week

May 16th - Spring 2009 semester  
ends

May 18 - Commencement

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# TRiO Student Support Services

## MISSION

To provide guidance, advocacy, and academic support to low-income, first generation and disabled students seeking to earn an associate's degree and/or transfer to a four year institution.

## METHODOLOGY

Through a highly comprehensive and individualized one-stop educational opportunity program, the project helps participants develop persistence, self-discipline, responsibility and confidence within the context of a learning community. All services are FREE.

## Remain in Good Standing with TRiO

- Check in with your advisor monthly
- Attend at least 1 workshop per semester
- Attend at least 1 educational and/or cultural program per semester
- Turn in progress reports on time
- Maintain a 2.0 Cumulative and Semester GPA

## Did You Know... You'll Never Know...When You'll need to Know?

- In the average lifetime, a person will walk the equivalent of 5 times around the equator.
- The first known contraceptive was crocodile dung, used by Egyptians in 2000 B.C.
- The word "lethologica" describes the state of not being able to remember the word you want.
- The king of hearts is the only king

- without a moustache.
- Charlie Brown's father was a barber.
- You burn more calories sleeping than you do watching TV.
- Cats can hear ultrasound.
- Children grow faster in the

- springtime.
- Every human spent about half an hour as a single cell.

**The United States has never lost a war in which mules were used.**

## Until Next Time...



- Lady GaGa, "Just Dance"
- The All American Rejects, "Gives You Hell"
- Flo Rida, "Right Round"
- Asher Roth, "I Love College"
- T.I. ft./ Justin Timberlake, "Dead And Gone"
- Kanye West, "Heartless"

### GOT BOOK?

- Three Cups of Tea**  
*G. Mortensen and D.O. Relin*
- The Lost City of Z**  
*David Grann*
- Firefly Lane**  
*Kristin Hannah*
- The Middle Place**  
*Kelly Corrigan*



**DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME... WHEN IT'S GONE... IT'S GONE**

### A Little Motivation

*The Key To Success:*



Be prepared to take advantage of **ALL** opportunities

Refreshments will be provided

\*\*\* Attend at least 1 workshop per semester (fall & spring) to remain in good standing with TRiO\*\*\***YOU MUST RSVP TO 651-4441 FOR THE WORKSHOP YOU WISH TO ATTEND**Where Your Academic Success  
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<u>Date</u>	<u>Day(s)</u>	<u>Time(s)</u>	<u>Workshop</u>
February 2, 2009 February 5, 2009	Monday Thursday	11:00 am 1:30 pm	<b>Nevada State College Is Here!!</b> Find out everything you want to know about transferring to this 4-year institution.
February 12, 2009	Thursday	2:00 pm CYE Campus Rm. 2411	<b>Relationships: What's up with yours?</b> Valentine's Day is coming...Is your relation cause for celebration? Or...Is it time to quit slackin' and send them packin'? <b>Cheyenne Campus Rm. 2411</b>
February 16, 2009 February 19, 2009	Monday Thursday	1:30 pm 2:30 pm	<b>Need \$\$ for College??</b> There is so much free money out there!! Find out how to fill out your FAFSA and look for scholarships online.
February 23, 2009 February 26, 2009	Monday Thursday	1:30 pm 2:30 pm	<b>Why Don't I Ever Have Any Time???</b> Learning how to manage your time in college can be critical for your success
March 2, 2009 March 5, 2009	Monday Thursday	1:30 pm 2:30 pm	<b>Why Can't I Understand my \$100 Textbook??</b> There are many things that can interfere with effective reading. Learn how to get the most from your textbooks and increase retention.
March 9, 2009 March 12, 2009	Monday Thursday	1:30 pm 2:30 pm	<b>Dollars &amp; Sense: Why Finances Should Matter</b> Learn budgeting information, advice, tips, and resources to help you set up a successful budget and stay motivated.
March 16-22, 2009	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
March 26, 2009	Thursday	2:00 pm	<b>Dealing with unsupportive family members?</b> Learn what to expect, and how to cope with unsupportive family members.
March 30, 2009 April 2, 2009	Monday Thursday	1:30 pm 2:30 pm	<b>Thinking About Taking Online and/or Summer Classes??</b> Learn the facts about taking online and/or summer classes before you register.
April 6, 2009 April 9, 2009	Monday Thursday	1:30 pm 2:30 pm	<b>Overcoming test anxiety &amp; procrastination</b> Most students who experience test anxiety also have a problem with procrastination. Learn techniques and strategies to help you succeed.
April 13, 2009 April 16, 2009	Monday Thursday	1:30 pm 2:30 pm	<b>What's your personality?</b> Discover your personality type and improve self-understanding. Learn how personality can help you come to a better understanding of your strengths and weaknesses.
April 20, 2009 April 23, 2009	Monday Thursday	1:30 pm 2:30 pm	<b>Problem Solving &amp; Critical Thinking</b> What is critical thinking? What is problem solving? How do I use them??
April 27, 2009 April 30, 2009	Monday Thursday	1:30 pm 2:30 pm	<b>Looking for a Job??</b> Finding a job is tough! Learn how you can stand out!
May 4, 2009 May 7, 2009	Monday Thursday	1:30 pm 2:30 pm	<b>'TRiO Lounge'</b> Finals Stressin' you out! Relax...join us for a stress free hour of fun!