

# LETTER: TRiO program supports students

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(Photo: JOHN ZIOMEK/Courier-Post file)

Recently, the U.S. Department of Education awarded a \$220,000 grant to support the TRiO Student Support Services program at Rutgers University–Camden. As a student in that program, I can attest that it has been critical to my path toward earning a Rutgers degree here in South Jersey.

TRiO, and other federally funded program like it, delivers important support services for students like me who come from low-income backgrounds. With the continuous and tremendous help of TRiO counselor Pamela Clark at Rutgers–Camden, I was able to support myself financially and academically and graduated with honors from Rutgers–Camden in 2013.

Furthermore, with the help of excellent academic and leadership skills that I gained from TRiO, I had the opportunity to take up a position as a presidential personal intern at the White House. TRiO really provided guidance on academic and personal matters, and has proven to build a community of learners through successful leadership and academia.

Therefore, I couldn't thank TRiO enough for being the cause of my successful career.

Even as there are many types of students, there are many ways for colleges to support those students. I know Rutgers–Camden offers a wide range of programs to provide students with the attention that they need. As a federally funded program, TRiO is extremely effective and important to first-generation college students.

I would like to thank Congressman Donald Norcross and Sens. Cory Booker and Robert Menendez for their support of such programs. I am proof that they are making a real impact on our lives and, ultimately, on our communities.

Salima Mostafa

West Berlin

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Oct. 6, 2015, 10:02 a.m.