TRIO Teacher Preparation Student Support Services (TPSSS) is a federally funded program designed for students who have indicated an interest in pursuing a degree in K-12 education. TPSSS provides undergraduate students with enhanced academic and personal support through advising, coaching, test preparation and tutoring.

Students participate in educational activities, seminars and K-12 student tutoring experiences and mentoring partnerships to maximize their success in college and beyond. Below are examples of the benefits, services and opportunities that the program offers.

**Benefits and Services**

- Academic Learning and Study Skills
- Comprehensive Academic Assessment
- Academic Tutoring Services
- Career Assessment
- Academic Collaborative Study Groups
- Individual Proactive Advising
- Academic Skill Building
- Course Selection Guidance
- Public Speaking Skills/Toast Master
- Coaching and Mentoring Services
- Financial and Economic Literacy
- Financial Aid (FAFSA) and Scholarship Assistance
- Professional Readiness Exam (PRE) Preparation
- Cultural Events
- State Subject Test Preparation
- Graduate and Advance Degree Assistance
- Mentoring and Tutoring K-12 Students
- “Teaching and Learning in a Diverse Environment” Course (EDF 100)
Aliya Armstrong currently serves as the Director of TRIO-Teacher Preparation Student Support Services (TPSSS). Previously Aliya served as the Homeless Coordinator at Kentwood Public Schools. She began her professional career at Grand Rapids Public Schools (GRPS) as a Language Arts Instructor. After graduating from Grand Valley State University in 2005 with a Master’s in School Counseling she left the classroom. During her time at GRPS she enjoyed her roles as competitive cheer coach, lead teacher, family engagement facilitator, head counselor, national honor society advisor, senior class advisor, rocket team advisor, GRAPCEP coach, building liaison, and more.

Aliya has an overabundance of experience working with underrepresented undergraduate students and engaging them academically and socially. She has mentored and advised students from pre-admission to graduation. In fact, she was a first generation, low-income college student. She knows firsthand the impact a college degree has on a student's life. “I believe in success and equity for all. My life is dedicated to removing obstacles and barriers,” said Aliya.

Aliya has a Bachelor’s degree in Education and a Master’s degree in English, both from Western Michigan University. She is also a licensed school counselor.

In her spare time Aliya enjoys spending time with her family, viewing movies with her spouse, reading, athletic events, and participating in running events with her organization Sisters Taking Action Reversing Statistics (S.T.A.R.S.).

You can email Aliya at armstra1@gvsu.edu.

### Interesting Facts

**TRIO TPSSS eligible students are being left behind**

- High school seniors that go straight to college after graduation
  - 38% of TRIO TPSSS eligible seniors
  - 81% of their peers in the highest income

- Students that receive a bachelor degree
  - 21% of TRIO TPSSS eligible students
  - 45% of their peers in the highest income

**Student Support Services help eligible students**

- Students enrolled in programs saw GPAs rise and remained in good academic standing
  - GPA rise from a 2.3 in their freshman year to a 2.6 by their senior year
  - 77% of those who started college in were in good academic standing
  - By their senior year, 88% were in good academic standing
Be a part of TPSSS

To receive assistance, students must:

- Be a **U.S. citizen** or **permanent resident**
- Have an **interest** in becoming a **K-12 educator**
- Be a **first-generation college** student (neither parents have completed a bachelor’s degree from a four-year institute)
- AND/OR meet specific **income** guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Education

You aren’t eligible, but still want to be involved? Check out these free resources on campus...

**Student Academic Success Center** – assisting undecided, pre-major, and transfer students
- Office: 200 Student Services
- Phone: 616-331-3588
- Email: askowl@gvsu.edu
- Web: www.gvsu.edu/sasc

**Multicultural Cohort Program** – professional development program that connects students with similar career goals
- Office: 1240 Kirkhof Center
- Phone: 331-2177
- Email: oma@gvsu.edu
- Web: www.gvsu.edu/oma

**Career Center** – assisting with choosing a major and investigating careers
- Office – 206 Student Services
- Phone: 616-331-3311
- Email – careers@gvsu.edu
- Web: www.gvsu.edu/careers

If you are eligible

- Go to our website www.gvsu.edu/tpsss
- Click Apply (located in the navigation bar)
- Follow instructions on page and click ...

✔️ Apply now!
### April

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**TPSSS Advising Appointments**

Every Tuesdays and Thursdays
10:00am – 2:00pm
374C DeVos

616-331-6870
tpsss@gvsu.edu
www.gvsu.edu/tpsss

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**Stay connected by ....**

GVSUTPSSS  tpsss@gvsu.edu  www.gvsu.edu/tpsss  616-331-6870