



MID-SOUTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

May 6, 2014

MSCC Student Selected for Arkansas TRiO Hall of Fame

Mid-South Community College student Laura Buralli has been selected for the Arkansas TRiO Hall of Fame.

She is one of 44 state honorees included in a booklet hand-delivered by TRiO staff members to the Arkansas congressional delegation in Washington so lawmakers can see the impact the program makes in the lives of students.

Buralli, a resident of Marion, received a congratulatory letter from U.S. Sen. Mark Pryor soon after earning the recognition.

“Your hard work and dedication to strive for academic excellence are duly noted, and I commend you on a job well done,” Sen. Pryor wrote. “As a future leader of our great state and country, you exemplify the commitment and energy that will help build a brighter future for generations to come.”



Buralli recently completed her final semester at MSCC and will graduate summa cum laude on May 8 with Associate of Arts in General Education and Associate of Arts in Teaching degrees.

“Laura is an exemplary student with tremendous character,” said MSCC TRiO Counselor Donna Shaull. “She has a disciplined approach to learning that has set her apart from her peers and is well deserving of this honor.”

Shaull said Buralli has participated in the TRiO Student Support Services program since early 2012 and continues to excel academically while increasing her dedication. She has been a successful non-traditional, part-time student working to become a teacher.

“My dream job would be teaching a kindergarten class in our community,” Buralli said. “I want to make a difference in the lives of children. I want them to be able to have their dream jobs as well.”

She has also expressed interest in special education and will make a final career decision soon. A member of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Buralli plans to continue her education through Arkansas State University.

Buralli enrolled at MSCC in fall 2010 with encouragement from her family.

“One of my sons told me I should to go back to school. He said, ‘Just take a few classes and see what you think.’ He told me how nice the campus was and how caring the instructors were.

“Both of my sons attended (MSCC) while they were in high school. I just thought, ‘It is in my back yard, why not? They both loved it, so why can't I?’”

She said the decision has been a good one.

“I feel at home any time I’m on campus,” Buralli said. “It is a nice campus with caring staff that make sure you reach your goals. The instructors are very helpful and knowledgeable.

“I think that MSCC has the best teaching staff in the whole state of Arkansas. The instructors have taught me so much since I have returned to school. I know this is going to help me in my future.”

Sponsored by the Arkansas Association of Student Assistance Programs, Inc., the TRiO Hall of Fame program seeks to recognize students of outstanding character and academic achievement who embody the spirit of TRiO. The honorees represent thousands of TRIO participants in Arkansas and across the nation who are America’s future.

Federal TRIO programs include outreach and student services efforts designed to identify and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post baccalaureate programs.

In addition to Student Support Services, MSCC features a TRiO Educational Opportunity Center on its campus.

For information on TRiO or other student assistance programs at the College, please call (870) 733-6728, visit the campus at 2000 West Broadway in West Memphis, email admissions@midsouthcc.edu or see the college's website at www.midsouthcc.edu.