

FIRST-GENERATION FEATURE

TRISTAN RIGGS



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IMPACT/TRIO STUDENT
Art Education Major
#CelebrateFirstGen
#IAMFIRST

IMPACT helps up to 160 students reach their full potential each year by achieving their educational goals.

We are proud to introduce our next, first-generation feature, Tristan Riggs. Meet Tristan, a Cowley College student and a member of the IMPACT/TRIO/Student Support Services program. Her goal is to pursue a degree in Art Education. Originally from Conway Springs, KS, she currently resides in Wellington, KS. Here's a brief insight from Tristan into what it means to her to be a first-generation student.

What does being a First-Generation student mean to you?

I am 27 years old, and I have two toddler sons. I remember watching my parents struggle financially when I was young. Without a degree I had very few career options that would allow my family financial stability. I started to realize that I was putting my children in the same position that I grew up in. I want to do better for them and set a good example. I hope that when my children are high school graduates, they will see the value of college and have the means and motivation to pursue a degree. The most important thing for me is just to give them a better leg up in life, and then I hope their children have an even better head start!

What do you hope to do after you graduate from Cowley?

I hope to teach middle school, high school, or even college level art classes.

What piece of advice would you share with incoming first-generation college students?

It's worth it! And there are lots of resources out there to help you, (like IMPACT) find them and utilize them!

WHAT IS TRIO/STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES? (IMPACT)

IMPACT is a federally funded Student Support Services TRIO program designed to help Cowley College students graduate and transfer onto a four-year university.

TRIO Student Support Services were the third in a series of educational opportunity programs authorized by the Higher Education Amendments.

With the grant, funds are awarded to provide opportunities for academic development, assist students with basic college requirements, and to motivate students toward the successful completion of their post secondary education. (U.S. Dept. of Education)

IMPACT at Cowley College offers its students transfer assistance, tutoring, career exploration, cultural enrichment activities, laptop/calculator checkout program, and MORE!

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