Shannon Scholars Mid-Year report

**Fall 2014**

**By Alecia Duncan-Thomas**

**General Cohort Overview**

*Student Profile & Highlights:*

Our first incoming class of Shannon Scholars consists of eight students. The wonderful highlights include:

* 4 out of 8 students are in the honors program.
* 4 out of the 8 students live on campus.
* 6 out of the 8 of the students made above a 3.0 G.P.A. for midterm evaluations.
* 5 out of 8 students are involved in at least one student organization or sports team at Trinity.
* The Shannon Scholars are from Washington D.C., Maryland, Virginia, Montana, and South Carolina.
* The scholars have chosen a variety of majors: Nursing, Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Biology, Forensic Science, and Early Childhood Education.
* All scholars have met with me for an initial advising meeting.

**Programming Plan & Projects**

***Thank you cards for Ms. Shannon***

Great news—All Shannon Scholars have submitted their thank you cards for Ms. Shannon. I collaborated with the Office of Development to ensure each student completed and submitted their thank you cards to Karen Gainor. Each Shannon Scholar shared their own journey and appreciation for how receiving the scholarship will make a positive impact on their education and career goals.

***Shannon Scholars Social:*** *Passing the Torch*

I am currently planning a lunch and social gathering for the Shannon Scholars each semester called “Passing the Torch”. The goal is to allow for the exchange of educational paths, experiences, motivations, and to build a sense of community among the group. I also plan to invite faculty and staff to the social to discuss their research interests, tips for success and to share their own journey as an undergraduate student.

***Shannon Scholars Moodle Page***

I am planning on working with Katie Wanschura and Mary Etienne to design a Moodle page for the Shannon Scholars. The goal is to have a central place to share announcements, monthly check-in updates, and highlight each Shannon Scholar’s current success.

***Academic Advising & Progress***

All of the Shannon Scholars have met with me at least once for an initial advising meeting. Some of the discussion topics included:

* My role as advisor and success coach for the Shannon Scholars
* Academic support & progress
* Student engagement
* Semester goals
* Action steps for next meeting
* Spring 2015 registration & course selection

The Shannon Scholars have expressed that they are supported at Trinity, enjoy most of their classes, and are familiar with at least one academic support service a Trinity. Each Shannon Scholar will continue to meet with me each month to discuss academic progress and semester goals using the Appreciative Advising model and stages.