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President's Letter

Jan 29, 2007

Dear LASAPIans,

I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome everyone to a new semester, a new year, and a new administration for LASAP. This is my first official address to the LASAP membership and I bid you all well. It has been a pleasure to begin serving you as president. The reason why is found in the tremendous support and assistance that has been received from the executive board and the rank and file membership. In other words, **we have all lived up to our promises to serve this organization.** If we are to continue to make LASAP great, it will take this kind of total commitment.

All of us work in TRiO because we believe in our students and we want to help them succeed. In order to do so, we must be mindful to always do what is in their best interests. That's why we often work late, volunteer our time, and "go the extra mile". On behalf of these students, I thank you for your tireless efforts and encourage you to continue working hard. **LASAP is here to support your efforts and to provide you with information and resources that will make your work more rewarding.** This year we have high expectations. We will:

- Continue to provide opportunities for low-income first generation students
- Get more TRiO personnel involved in LASAP and SWASAP
- Successfully lobby to safeguard our students' best interests
- Secure new and continuation funding for state TRiO programs
- Take "LASAP All Over The World" at our state meeting in Alexandria (April 24-27)
- Meet our FairShare obligation
- Continue the recovery efforts for the hurricane affected schools and students
- And we will do much more...

We will commit to leading LASAP by building on the leadership legacy of the past and improving where it is necessary. If you are already on board, thank you. If you would like to get more involved, step right up, we've been waiting for you.

Have a blessed year,

Dereck J. Rovaris

Dereck J. Rovaris, Sr., Ph.D.
LAIAP President