**Table of Contents**

*Introduction* ............................................................................................................................................................... 1

*An Interview with Vice President for Campus Life and University Relations.* .................................................. 2

*Middle School and 9th Grade Sessions* ..................................................................................................................... 4

*10th Grade Sessions* .................................................................................................................................................. 5

*11th Grade Sessions* .................................................................................................................................................. 6

*12th Grade Sessions* .................................................................................................................................................. 7

*Adult Connection Sessions* ........................................................................................................................................ 8

*Luncheon Speaker* ..................................................................................................................................................... 9

*TRIO Day Program* .................................................................................................................................................... 10-12

*Student Profile-Disability Support Services* .......................................................................................................... 13

*Student Profile-Talent Search* .................................................................................................................................... 14

*Student Profile-Upward Bound Math/Science* ......................................................................................................... 15

*Student Profile-Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP* .................................................................................................................. 16
February 9, 2010 will be here in a short time. The Wichita State University TRIO, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) and the Office of Disability Services (ODS) programs are looking forward to hosting students, staff, university and community personnel for National TRIO Day 2010. It promises to be an exciting program.

The staff of the programs have been hard at work to design an exceptional celebration. This years’ luncheon speakers are former TRIO/GEAR UP participants, Latina Alston - Upward Bound Wichita Prep/Student Support Services; Darryl Carrington - Educational Opportunity Centers Program and Abraham Rodriguez – Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) who will share their stories of success and challenges. Each of them has been a participant in one of the TRIO Programs. We look forward to hearing how the programs and their experiences have shaped and affected their lives.

Session speakers will provide middle school to adult participants with opportunities for enlightenment and personal growth. Grade level specific session presenters have designed their presentations to address areas to promote growth.

The staff extend a very special thank you to the Vice President for Campus Life and University Relations Wade Robinson for his interview as he continues a new chapter in his career with WSU, and to the Federal TRIO Programs Director Linda Byrd-Johnson who impacts the legacy of the TRIO Programs. Their imprint and legacy are important to the students.

During the luncheon, staff will recognize students, WSU and community personnel during TRIO Day activities. We hope to see you at TRIO Day.
An Interview with Vice President for Campus Life

NTDM: As someone who during his school days participated actively in the 4-H youth development programs, what similarities and differences do you see between the 4-H program and TRIO programs?

WR: 4-H is an agricultural-based program. Growing up on a farm in Bertrand, Nebraska, I was involved in 4-H for 10 to 12 years. 4-H is about citizenship, life skills and social skills for rural students. TRIO has some similarities in that both programs encourage and prepare students to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. Through both programs, students gain confidence in their abilities and skills, but TRIO programs enhances academic skills.

NTDM: Although TRIO and GEAR UP programs cannot recruit for WSU, what impact or benefit do you see to hosting these programs at WSU?

WR: Obviously, one of the greatest benefits to WSU is students are better prepared academically. Although TRIO and GEAR UP can’t recruit for WSU, having them on the campus is a direct benefit because the students from these programs that come here impact our enrollment and tuition dollars. The diversity of the university is tremendously impacted. Helping to prepare multicultural students is a huge benefit to the university.

NTDM: What are some of the accomplishments you hope to make in the next year?

WR: I want to increase the support for TRIO and GEAR UP. One initiative is the TRIO/GEAR UP Scholars. I would like to work out some of the bumps in that program by working with key individuals to enhance the TRIO/GEAR UP Scholars program. We need to enroll, retain, and graduate these scholars from WSU. For the division, budget challenges will determine what we can do, but we have made several strides already. Gaining student support for the expansion of the Rhatigan Student Center and making necessary upgrades to the playground equipment and building a storm shelter at the Child Development Center are a couple of examples of what we been able to accomplish. We are also looking to secure a facility along the river to house the WSU crew team as well as looking at areas where we can enhance the Heskett Center. Identifying donors to fund scholarships is also one of the areas I want to address.

NTDM: How do you see TRIO’s role in helping WSU and the Division accomplish their mission?

WR: The programs help students to be successful. WSU’s mission is to retain and graduate students. TRIO’s mission is to prepare students for this. The Kansas Board of Regents mission and the division’s mission are similar. WSU wants students who are engaged and TRIO helps students to become more involved on campus and in the community because TRIO practices student involvement in their program activities.

NTDM: How do you feel you can best assist the TRIO programs accomplish their goals and objectives?

WR: I can support TRIO in light of limited resources. If its scholarships, then finding out... (Continued on page 3)
what is needed to support this. I see myself acting as a facilitator for space needs and other resources. I want to equip the staff with the resources they need to do their jobs in the most effective way possible.

NTDM: What do you like about your position at WSU?
WR: Everything! I like working with the people at WSU and the variety in this position. My duties are broader than in my previous position so each day is different—which I really enjoy. I like the diversity of my activities and tasks. I still have many friends at UNO and I enjoyed my time there. Similar to my time at UNO, I worked with the university relations office on a daily basis just as I do here. I also liked working with the UNO alumni office, student center, and TRIO but did not have direct responsibility for these areas. Here, TRIO and these other areas are under the division’s umbrella. Dr. Beggs is a great guy and great president. I enjoy working with all the other vice presidents. Ginger Cox makes it all happen (smiling).

NTDM: What is the biggest change for you in coming to WSU?
WR: One of my biggest changes is learning about the TRIO and GEAR UP programs. Deltha Colvin is a tremendous asset to the university. I appreciate the TRIO and GEAR UP staffs for sharing what they do and I look forward to learning more about each of the programs.

NTDM: What do you hope others would say are important to your legacy?
WR: I’m not interested in a legacy that is self-serving or one where my name is attached to something. I want to work in the best interests of the students and if that gives me some sort of credit, then that’s fine. As long as WSU and the students are successful and if I had a hand in that, then that will be a positive legacy. I’m focused on the positive outcomes for students.

NTDM: How did M&Ms become a favorite?
WR: I like peanut butter. Whoever invented Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups is God to me (laughing)! I am trying to reduce my intake but I grew up on peanut butter. People who knew about my affinity for M&Ms would bring me some every time they’d come to visit me thinking they would get a better response from me. No such luck!

NTDM: Is there anything else you’d like to add?
WR: Because of the size and scope of the programs, our job will be to help people understand what TRIO and GEAR UP is all about. The president knows about the programs—but, as new people come to the university and larger community (city and state), they will need to be exposed to the position TRIO and GEAR UP play in our communities.
Financial Literacy

Chris Wolgamott, Community Development Liaison, at Meritrust Credit Union, oversees all financial literacy initiatives for Meritrust. Having impacted over 1,800 individuals with classes ranging in topics regarding personal finance, he has partnered with organizations such as the State Treasurer’s office, Attorney General’s office, the Kansas Credit Union Association and Youth Entrepreneurs of Kansas to provide instruction to both youth and adults. Wolgamott has worked at Meritrust for over 10 years and has been in the credit union industry for 12 years. He graduated from Wichita State University with a degree in marketing and management, and has a Master’s of Science degree in adult education from Kansas State University.

Wolgamott has been married to wife, Trisha, for three years and has a 16 month old son named Connor. Wolgamott’s hobbies include watching and playing sports (especially basketball, volleyball and tennis). He also loves to sing, listen to music, loves to learn- especially about finance, and tries to read at least one book each month (sometimes educational, sometimes just for fun). Wolgamott loves to go running, whenever there is the time.

Show Me Your True Colors

Janice Burdine Thacker was born in Boley, Oklahoma, a historic “post-civil war/turn of the century” town established by slaves. She grew up in Wichita, Kansas graduating from Wichita State University and Emporia State University with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in art education along with certification in counseling.

For over 30 years, Thacker taught and guided students in Kansas City, Kansas; White Plains, New York; Comiso, Italy; Emporia, Kansas, and Overland Park, Kansas. She eventually retired, returning to Wichita and USD 259 where she taught and counseled for 30 years as a part-time counselor.

With a gift of art, a love of history, a devotion to Boley and a desire to motivate students to seek excellence in education, Thacker began “The Boley Project”, a tribute to the town and its people, past and present. Over the course of two summers, she guided the Upward Bound/Wichita Prep (UBWP) students in their discovery of historical treasures, stories and contributions of Boley through creative art and research.

Thacker continues to pursue her dream of education through art, speaking and teaching upon request. Her works have been displayed at the Bella Mosaique Gallery in Kansas City and throughout the region.

She recently mentored Charity Bush, a UBWP student who completed a senior project on the Boley experience. By encouraging Charity and other students, increasing their self-esteem, motivating them to learn and connecting them to the history of America, Thacker remains confident in what art education can accomplish.
Preparing Yourself for Personal Growth

Nichole Childers loves working with youth and providing workshops and activities that focus on personal appearance and behavior. She has been an advocate for youth for the past 10 years using her experience in culinary arts and etiquette. Presently, she works as a Para-educator and Student Focus Manager at Curtis Middle School, and she has taken on responsibilities as an on-site accountant there.

Childers graduated from Toms River High School South in New Jersey in 1992. She then returned to the Wichita area and attended Butler County Community College as a hospitality/restaurant management student. She worked as a prep chef for Hilton Garden Inn and Hyatt Regency in Wichita while attending school. She operated and owned her own catering business for about four years, and went on to pursue a degree in organizational management and leadership at Friends University. After graduating in 2003, she became a youth development director for Girls Scouts of the Golden Plains. While there, she created various youth sports and health and wellness programs for girls enrolled in grades K-12th. Many of the programs used targeted African American girls and first generation Girl Scouts. During this time she took on a part time job as an adjunct for the very program she graduated from, Butler Community College’s hospitality / restaurant management program. She taught culinary arts, catering management and beverage control.

When she became employed with Wichita Public Schools, her eyes were opened once again to the overwhelming needs of today’s youth. Many of the children Childers worked with struggled with home, financial and behavioral issues. In the summer of 2006, she came up with an idea of designing a culinary program at the Boys and Girls Club of South Central Kansas to reach at risk youth. During that summer, she taught fine dining etiquette, manners and basic culinary skills to the students participating in the youth program. It was there that she met then president George Bush when he visited the Boys and Girls club during the opening of its new facility on Opportunity Drive in northeast Wichita. The program was featured in the local newspaper with rave reviews, and Childers found her work with the youth to be most rewarding and productive.

In the fall of 2008, she enrolled at Friends University where she is currently getting her Masters of Science in organizational development. As part of her practicum projects during the summer of 2009, she designed several workshops for the TRIO Communication Upward Bound program, “Mind over Manners” and “Etiquette Success”. Both workshops focused on how to make teens more productive in today’s society by using their manners. She juggles such projects with her job, after school tutoring and her family. She is married with three children.
The Blueprint for a Lifetime of Success

Study Technology

Kaye Monk-Morgan has served Wichita State University as the director of the Upward Bound Math Science Regional Center since 1997. Her degrees in chemistry and public administration help her run the federally funded program devoted to assisting limited income, potential first generation college students gain admission and succeed in post-secondary institutions. Mrs. Morgan has the distinction of overseeing a center that serves 50 students in a state-wide regional area.

Morgan’s sixteen years of service in Student Affairs have given her the opportunity to work with and gain some expertise in student development, campus and residential life, programming, student recruitment and volunteerism.

As a community servant, Morgan volunteers with programs focusing on youth and education. She currently volunteers on three community boards and serves her profession on both her tri-state and regional boards. In addition, she volunteers as an advisor to a campus organization and teaches Sunday school at her church. Her efforts in the community have earned her many honors and awards including being named a National Title I Distinguished Graduate, 1998 Twyla J. McFall Young Achiever Award for community involvement and service and recognition as one of Wichita’s 40 under 40.

While all of this is important, she states that what really counts is that she is a daughter, sister, wife, and most importantly a mother.

Morgan’s recent exposure and subsequent training on study technology, a teaching tool that empowers students to remove common barriers to their acquisition of knowledge, provided by Applied Scholastics International, changed how she provides instruction to students and challenged her to help students to really take charge of their educational lives. Study technology teaches students to overcome and eradicate the three most commonly found barriers to understanding new material, the first of which is the misunderstood word, followed by skipped learning gradients and last, but not least, a lack of mass.

Students will learn how they can improve their learning outcomes by implementing a few basic, but powerful techniques including: the use of dictionaries and other reference materials, utilization of hands-on materials to increase relevancy of educational concepts, and the personal awareness needed to change the learning environment or method when students lose focus during a study session.

Workshop participants will enjoy a hands-on, interactive delivery which will require their full participation and willingness to challenge the notion that they already know how to learn.
12th Grade Sessions

How to Effectively Master College and Life by Sticking to Your Very Own Customized Plan

Marché Fleming-Randle is the assistant dean for the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. She is the college liaison for student services planning and implementation, encompassing undergraduate recruitment activity, the enrollment process and matriculation to degree completion. She consults with faculty and students on academic issues, including administrative withdrawal, assisting with the concurrent enrollment program, coordinating the representation of the college at admissions programs, representing the college with Kansas community colleges and analyzing student data. Her research and academic interests include mental health, substance abuse, child and youth programs, educational leadership and diversity.

Assistant Dean Fleming-Randle earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's in adult and continuing education from Kansas State University. She earned a doctorate in adult education with emphasis in diversity, and an Ed.D. in child and youth studies (clinical) from Nova Southeastern University. She joined the faculty at Upper Iowa University in 1999 as an adjunct faculty member and served as the senior project coordinator, graduation chair, search committee chair and faculty development facilitator. Fleming-Randle has also received a number of awards and honors. She was the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award at Upper Iowa University 2004, and in 2005 she was named Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers.

As a native of Wichita, Kansas, Brandi Newry attended USD 259 public schools and continued her education at Wichita State University receiving her bachelors degree in psychology in May 2004. Newry was a participant in the Wichita State McNair Scholars Program and completed her research component on Key Factors Impacting African American High School Student Performance. While at WSU, she was an (Continued on page 8)

How to Be Great Just Being Yourself

Born and raised in Wichita, Kansas, Alisa Alexander Fulton is a product of Wichita public schools. She graduated from Wichita South High in 1986. Her interest in helping individuals find resources and being supportive to others was an early characteristic that resulted in her pursuing a degree in Social Work. Alisa completed her degree while she was a single parent of two and receiving state assistance. Her past employment as a social worker has included hospice care and children’s mental health work. For the past 12 years she has worked as a school social worker for Wichita Public Schools. Her goals are to help parents find resources needed to support their children, particularly in the school setting and to provide students with support to help them be successful in the school setting. Alisa is a 1993 graduate of Wichita State University and 1997 graduate of the University of Kansas, both in the areas of social work. Alisa is currently attending Newman University pursuing a master’s in education. Her interest with this degree is to impact students on a different level. Alisa is now married and the parent of four children, ranging from college, high school, middle school and elementary levels.

As a native of Wichita, Kansas, Brandi Newry attended USD 259 public schools and continued her education at Wichita State University receiving her bachelors degree in psychology in May 2004. Newry was a participant in the Wichita State McNair Scholars Program and completed her research component on Key Factors Impacting African American High School Student Performance. While at WSU, she was an (Continued on page 8)
Major Lawrence P. Britton has been the executive director of Veterans Upward Bound since November 2007. Major Britton grew up in a military family and has lived in all regions of the continental United States as well as eight years in Germany. His family moved to Wichita, Kansas when he was sixteen where he graduated from Wichita High School Heights. Major Britton served both active duty and in the Army Reserves. He was deployed to Iraq as the commander of the 323rd Engineers. While in Iraq he served as the fire marshall of the forward operating base (FOB) Al Asad, in Al Anbar province. He also volunteered to assist with the Public Affairs Mission while there. This involved traveling throughout the region two to three times a week that included the cities Ar Ramadi, Al Haditha, Fallujah and Baghdad. Missions included rebuilding schools and hospitals, restoring water, electricity and telecommunications to the Iraqi citizens.

Prior to TRIO, Major Britton was a site coordinator for Communities in Schools and worked at Colvin Elementary, Alcott Academy and Curtis Middle School. In this position he coordinated wrap-around services for students and families. Services included rent and utility support, food, clothing, tutors, mentors, and medical services.

The session conducted by Major Britton will cover mentoring and discuss the following:

1) Why mentoring is crucial.
2) How to find and connect to mentors.
3) The elements and principles of effective mentoring.
4) Mentor and protégé expectations.

Due to her participation in the McNair Scholars Program she was afforded the opportunity to attend graduate school at Oklahoma State University to work toward a degree in school psychology. Newry received her masters in educational psychology in December 2005. She successfully completed her internship in school psychology with USD 259 and was awarded a specialist in education degree in school Psychology in May 2008.

In 2007, Newry was chosen as a minority scholarship recipient of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) and awarded this honor at the national conference in New York City in March 2007.

TRIO by Definition

Robert Love has worked for USD 259 in Wichita, Kansas for over 15 years. He is and has been a mentor to many students, helping them to achieve their dreams of succeeding in middle and high school and attending college. Love currently works as behavior support specialist at Southeast High School. He previously served as a site coordinator for Communities in Schools. Love has played a role in the planning process to form an alternative school for middle school students - Alcott Academy, formerly The Burger King Academy. He also served as a GEAR UP advisor, and as student support technician for Alcott Academy. Love was honored with a special recognition from Governor Graves for “Outstanding Contributions to Youth.” He personally and professionally possesses a passion and pride for all students. Love has proven to be successful working with all youth, particularly those with unusual hardships and academic challenges.
**Luncheon Speakers**

**Latina Alston** practices felony criminal law in the Sedgwick County Public Defender’s Office. She graduated from Washburn University’s School of Law in 2007. Alston obtained a legal assistant associate of arts degree from Washburn University and Bachelor in business in marketing and management from Wichita State University. She participated in UBWP program as a high school student and joined SSS while attending Wichita State University. She was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas where she resides with her fiancée and three children.

**Darryl Carrington** is a husband and father of two small children. He is a product of two parents who served their country as Army personnel during the Korean conflict in the 1950’s. After having experienced southern California since the 1960’s he and his family were moving back to his home town of Charleston in 2003 and stopped and discovered the “best kept secret” in the midwest: Wichita and the Fairmount community.

Carrington is a political science and public administration major. He also works on the Wichita State University campus for the Physical Plant at Fairmount Towers Residence Halls, and is actively involved in the Fairmount community surrounding Wichita State Universities main campus. He is an alumni of the EOC program at Wichita State University.

**Abraham Rodriguez** was born and raised in Garden City, Kansas. He graduated from high school last spring and now is studying at Wichita State University majoring in accounting. He is a proud TRIO and GEAR UP alum having joined the summer of his freshman year. He tells everyone it was one of the best decisions of his life. Through guidance and mentoring from the staff at ETS, he became involved in a host of opportunities that opened doors to a better future. GEAR UP provided him with many leadership opportunities.

The recipient of many prestigious scholarships. Rodriguez says that without the help of those scholarships he would not be going to school right now. His parents are immigrants from Mexico. His dad is a mechanic and his mom is a homemaker. Although they worked together tirelessly to provide a better life for their six children, they are not financially able to pay for their post-secondary education. Rodriguez realized this at a young age and worked hard to make it to college. Now he works to help other students realize that regardless of their situation they can make it to college as well. All it takes is initiative and hard work.
National TRIO Day Celebration
February 9, 2010

TRIO: The Blueprint for a Lifetime of Success

9:30 am—9:40 am  Welcome Remarks
Lowe Auditorium  Dr. Donald L. Beggs, President, Wichita State University

7th & 8th GRADE MIDDLE SCHOOL SESSIONS

SESSION

9:45 am – 10:35 am  Financial Literacy.
Chris Wogamott, Community Development Liaison, Meritrust Credit Union

10:35 am – 10:50 am  BREAK

10:50 am – 11:40 am  Financial Literacy.
Chris Wogamott, Community Development Liaison, Meritrust Credit Union

9th GRADE HIGH SCHOOL SESSION

SESSION

9:45 am – 10:20 am  Show Me Your True Colors – Part I.
Presenter: Janice Thacker, Educator, Author, and Retired Counselor

10:20 am – 10:35 am  BREAK

10:35 am – 11:30 am  Show Me Your True Colors – Part II.
Presenter: Janice Thacker, Educator, Author, and Retired Counselor
National TRIO Day Celebration
February 9, 2010

TRIO: The Blueprint for a Lifetime of Success

10th GRADE HIGH SCHOOL SESSION

SESSION

9:45 am – 10:20 am  Prepare Yourself for Personal Growth
Presenter: Nichole Childers, Para-educator and Student Focus Manager, Curtis Middle School

10:20 am – 10:35 am  BREAK

10:35 am – 11:30 am  Prepare Yourself for Personal Growth
Presenter: Nichole Childers, Para-educator and Student Focus Manager, Curtis Middle School

11th GRADE HIGH SCHOOL SESSIONS

SESSION

9:45 am – 10:20 am  Improve Your Grades by Improving Your Study Habits: 3 Easy Steps!
Presenter: V. Kaye Monk-Morgan, Director, UB Math Science Regional Center (UBMS)

10:20 am – 10:35 am  BREAK

10:35 am – 11:30 am  Improve Your Grades by Improving Your Study Habits: 3 Easy Steps!
Presenter: V. Kaye Monk-Morgan, Director, UB Math Science Regional Center (UBMS)

12th GRADE HIGH SCHOOL SESSIONS

SESSIONS

9:45 am – 10:15 am  TRIO by Definition
Room
Presenter: Robert Love, Behavior Support Specialist, Southeast High School

10:15 am – 10:50 am  How to Be Great Just Being Yourself
Room
Presenters: Alisa Alexander Fulton, Social Worker, Spaght Academy; Brandi Newry, School Psychologist, Spaght Academy

10:50 - 11:00 am  BREAK

11:00 am – 11:40 am  How to Effectively Master College and Life by Sticking to Your Very Own Customized Plan
Room
Presenter: Dr. Marché Fleming-Randle, Assistant Dean, Fairmount College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
National TRIO Day Celebration  
February 9, 2010

TRIO: The Blueprint for a Lifetime of Success

ADULT CONNECTION SESSION

SESSION

9:45 am – 10:20 am  The Value of Mentorship
Presenter: Larry Britton, Director, Veterans Upward Bound

10:20 am – 10:35 am  BREAK

10:35 am – 11:30 am  The Value of Mentorship
Presenter: Larry Britton, Director, Veterans Upward Bound

LUNCHEON

11:45 am – 1:30 pm  LUNCH – Mistress of Ceremonies: LaWanda Holt-Fields, Director, Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program
Remarks: Dr. Wade Robinson, Vice President for Campus Life and University Relations
National TRIO Day Video
Luncheon Speaker Panel: Latina Alston, Upward Bound Wichita Prep and Student Support Services Alum
Darryl Carrington, Educational Opportunity Center Alum
Abraham Rodriguez, Educational Talent Search and GEAR UP Alum

TRIO Student of the Year Award
TRIO/GEAR UP Scholar Recognition
Essay Contest Awards
Building Bridges Awards
Logo and T-Shirt Design Recognition
Evaluations

TRIO Programs are 100% federally funded by the US Department of Education. GEAR UP is 50% funded by the U.S. Department of Education and 50% funded through state and local sources. Office of Disability Services is 100% State Funded.

Notice of Nondiscrimination
Wichita State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, status as a Vietnam-era veteran, or disability. Any persons having inquiries concerning this may contact the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, Kansas 67260-0001, (316) 978-3001.
Elizabeth graduated from Wichita State University on May 20, 2009 with a bachelor of general studies with an emphasis on psychology and with honors. Elizabeth is a delightful person that enjoys life, even though she was born with cerebral palsy. Elizabeth was determined to not let her disability stop her from accomplishing the goals she had set down for herself and doing them the best she could.

Elizabeth experienced some family changes as a young person when her parents filed for divorce and then she had to readjust her life style when both her parents remarried. Even so, Elizabeth was determined to go to college and enrolled in Butler County Community College in the Fall 2004 semester. She instantly earned above average grades and really put her heart into her college work.

Elizabeth transferred to Wichita State University in Fall 2007 to complete her four-year degree. She knew that she would have to face incredible challenges at the new, much larger college. Therefore, she went to the Office of Disability Services to make arrangements for the help, such as note taking and extra time for taking tests. Elizabeth was also accepted into the TRIO Disability Support Services program. She knew that there she could work with a tutor, gain study skills and acquire resources that offered her much needed support.

Elizabeth spent a lot of time at DSS, studying, using the computer lab, checking out textbooks, talking with staff and meeting new friends.

Toward the end of her last semester in Spring 2009, Elizabeth became very excited about graduating because she had already found a job that would begin the day after she graduated. Elizabeth is a professional nanny, she loves her job and the children that she cares for. She is grateful to both of the departments, ODS and DSS, that helped her earn her bachelor’s degree and the self-confidence she needed to make a great life for herself.
Solomon

Solomon was born and raised in Wichita, Kansas and is the oldest of four children. He is a product of the Wichita public school system and was an active participant in the Educational Talent Search Program at Wichita State University during his high school years.

After spending part of his elementary school years in El Dorado, Solomon attended Curtis Middle School and then Southeast High School. Most of his childhood was marred by an unstable family environment. While his father attended Butler Community College and his mother was a high school graduate, school was rarely discussed in the home.

A bevy of financial and other “domestic conflicts” resulted in Solomon and his siblings not having their basic needs met. Clothing, food and shelter were seldom a constant. At one point, a local news channel broadcasted a feature on Solomon’s family. The family had lost their electricity, water and gas and was forced to move into a shelter home. Later on, his father was incarcerated and Solomon was placed in foster care. During this time, he split time living with his grandmothers who provided him with the basic needs.

As the oldest sibling, Solomon worked hard in and out of school to be a positive role model for his younger brothers and sister. At 15 he started his first job in fast food. However he did not want to tempt anyone in his family to engage in self-destructive behaviors, so he hid his hard earned money and began saving it.

Solomon describes himself as being highly motivated as a teenager, but did not have much direction as far as his education was concerned. He knew he wanted to go to college, but lacked guidance and understanding to make correct and timely decisions. This was a difficult period for him.

In his junior year, he was called into the school office to meet with a representative from the Talent Search program. According to Solomon, the Talent Search counselor convinced him that college was a definite possibility. For two years the Talent Search counselor advised him on what college life was like, took him on campus visits and helped him apply for scholarships and financial aid. He was also provided with study guides and other resources to prepare for the ACT. Solomon graduated from Southeast High School in 2002 and enrolled in Wichita State University. He credits the program for helping him to construct an effective path in getting into the college of his choice.

Solomon’s future is bright. He not only graduated from WSU with a business management degree and a minor in Spanish—he did it in three and one-half years. Receiving a college degree phenomenal feat for someone who basically had every hurdle placed before him as a youngster.

While he is still contemplating his career options, Solomon took a keen interest in real estate. He also wants to apply to graduate programs at schools that offer the chance to study theology. His interest in religious studies began at sixteen—when he was ordained a minister. Solomon’s eyes light up when he talks about the joy he receives in motivating young people to make good choices and to make God an important part of their lives.
Student Profile-Upward Bound Math/Science

Cree

TRIO directors dream of changing lives; not unlike diet companies. Before and after snapshots of students tell much about a program’s efficacy and impact, just as they do of weight-loss programs. The story of Cree, UBMS senior and four-year participant, is a demonstration of the effect of TRIO!

This year’s programmatic theme was “Change thru Challenge,” and Cree has illustrated exactly what it means to experience life’s challenges and come through them a changed person. Cree first came to UMBS program as an angry child with practiced manipulations skills, fresh on the heels of a major family dispute. She has faced several demons in her life, most of which appeared as a result of someone else’s behavior, and emerged strong, confident and prepared for a successful college career. Cree’s family dynamic is one of which television dramas are written. She has lived in several homes, experienced the perils of parental drug addiction and the stigmas attached to poverty.

Cree readily admits the change she has made in an essay written during the 2009 summer program. She states, “Upward Bound Math and Science, a TRIO program, has had the greatest impact on me. Before becoming an Upward Bound Math and Science student, I had no clue what an engineer was. I did not know what financial aid was or how to apply for scholarships. Since my mother did not attend college and my father did not graduate from high school, I was not able to ask questions about scholarship money and college campus visits.

When I first started Upward Bound Math and Science, I was introduced to engineering in a general course. It was an exciting new thing for me because I always thought an engineer was someone who drove trains, not a scientist. It made me realize that I only wanted to become a doctor or lawyer because I wanted to be important in the world. When I did an actual study over becoming a doctor or lawyer, I realized it was not what I thought it would be. In fact, it did not interest me at all. I had a new-found interest in engineering.

As a result of being in Upward Bound Math and Science, I realized I wanted to become a Biomedical Engineer. I want to use the skills of engineering to solve medical problems.”

In addition to determining a career path, Cree also developed her leadership skills. She has the power to influence a group and understands the responsibilities that come with such a skill set. Cree has learned to stand up for herself and for others who might lack a voice at the table. Her ability to lead, determination to make a difference, desire to advocate for the best solution for all and her keen knack for getting people to do what she wants them to do coalesce into a powerful force with which to be reckoned. Cree’s before and after demonstrate that UBMS has helped “Prepare her for Purpose!”
Abraham

Abraham was born in Garden City, Kansas, lived there his entire life, graduated from high school and came to Wichita State University, where he is a freshman majoring in Business.

Growing up in a low-income home and struggling to make ends meet motivated Abraham to look for a better life. His father taught him to value education and what it can do for someone. His father has never forgotten his own struggles; he immigrated to the United States when he was young and only had a GED; while Abraham’s mother never finished the sixth grade. Neither could speak English at the time, and that put both of them at a disadvantage. His father was not qualified for a lot of jobs, and injured his back when he worked in a meat-packing plant. The entire family did their part to make ends meet.

Coming from a low-income background, Abraham’s parents did not have much hope for financing a post-secondary education. His dad told him, “I can’t pay for you to go to college; you are going to have to work hard in school if you want to make it.”

Abraham did his part and worked very hard to make good grades. He still would not have done so well if he had not gotten involved with TRIO and GEAR UP. Abraham was putting in the effort, but did not know where to direct it. Through guidance from the dedicated people working in TRIO Talent Search in Garden City, he started realizing how much opportunity lay in store for him.

With the help of TRIO/GEAR UP and his own effort, four years later Abraham enrolled in a college and was awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship and the Gore scholarship, the top scholarship at Wichita State University.

Abraham had a passion to get an education and took the initiative to work hard, remain disciplined and persevered until his goal was attained. He got involved in school activities, made friends with people who would help him succeed, got involved in the community and applied for as many scholarship as he could. In the end it all paid off.

Some people would say that Abraham was lucky, and he would agree until he heard someone say, “There is no such thing as luck, it’s where preparation meets opportunity.”

To earn something you must work for it.

Abraham knows that much of his accomplishment is due to tremendous amounts of help from the dedicated individuals in TRIO/GEAR UP. He gives this advice to students: “listen to the people who want to help you; don’t take opportunities for granted. There are so many people who would sacrifice everything to be in your position, make the best of it and work hard.”

Abraham and his father, Hector Rodriguez