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The Office of Special Programs (OSP) promotes equal educational opportunity. Individuals participate in one of the programs under the OSP umbrella which includes nine TRIO programs: Student Support Services, Disability Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers, Talent Search, Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program, Communication Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math Science, Upward Bound Wichita Prep, and Veterans Upward Bound, the State Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), and the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Staff members coordinate services and activities year-round to provide college access to low-income, first generation, and students with a disability from elementary to postsecondary. “The Blueprint for a Lifetime of Success,” is the theme for TRIO Day. The celebration of National TRIO Day is held at the Hughes Metropolitan Complex, Wichita State University (WSU), on February 9, 2010. This one day is a chance for us to share our students with you.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended is the authorizing legislation for the TRIO Programs. This important legislation was reauthorized in September 2008-Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA). The TRIO Programs, GEAR UP and ODS collaborate, celebrate and complement each other to provide comprehensive services to address the needs of the populations served.

TRIO Day is designed to provide participants learning opportunities to expand their knowledge base, expose participants to community and university professionals, offer cutting-edge and current educational experiences, and feature a keynote speaker to inspire. Sessions also help improve the personal and academic growth of participants.

I continue to be honored to work with dedicated and committed staff that work to ensure each age group attending TRIO Day receives age appropriate and relevant information. An evaluation of all aspects of the day will help staff gather information on the relevancy of topics, effectiveness of presenters, participant understanding of the day’s purpose, and suggestions for future TRIO Day activities.

Please enjoy the first edition of the 2010 WSU TRIO Day Magazine that shares information and accomplishments of each program and profiles of students. Please feel free to contact programs for further information, recommend an individual for participation, or to volunteer your services. Please put TRIO Day: February 9, 2010 on your calendar and plan to attend.

Sincerely,

Deltha Q. Colvin, Assistant Vice President for Campus Life and TRIO Director, Wichita State University

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Sincerely,
The Disability Support Services (DSS) program began another year of serving students with disabilities on September 1, 2009. The program’s goal is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of students with learning, physical and psychological disabilities. Services provided by DSS include: academic advising, personal counseling, individualized tutoring, career exploration and referral, study/life skills improvement workshops, grant aid and scholarship opportunities, computer technology lab usage, financial aid/economic literacy instruction, financial aid searches, graduate school selection and information, course selection and degree planning assistance, book/calculator/computer loan program (desktop and laptop) and offers campus and community involvement opportunities.

DSS provides opportunities for academic development, assists students with basic college requirements and motivates students with disabilities towards the successful completion of a baccalaureate degree.

DSS programs were designed to ensure access into college for individuals with disabilities.

The DSS program at WSU has been funded by the U. S. Department of Education since September 1, 2001 up to the present.

2008-2009 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- First TRIO program specifically for students with disabilities in the State of Kansas, one of twenty-five across the nation
- Contacted faculty, staff, students and community members to explain our goals and services
- 10 Tutors were available for tutoring in lower level undergraduate courses during the fall, spring, and summer semesters
- Provided personal, academic, financial aid, career options and graduate school selection advising
- Eighth Annual TRIO DSS Luncheon held in May 2009 to recognize program students, tutors, graduates, faculty, staff and scholarship recipients
- Adaptive Computer Lab – 9 stations available to students with disabilities
- Study Skills Videotape Library – 26 DVDs and 45 Video Instruction and taped DSS workshops added for student checkout
- Textbook Loan Program – 19 books were added to the DSS library this grant year (18 were bought by DSS and 1 was donated)
- Individualized Study Skill Instruction available to program students
- Writing Assistant available to assist students (individual/group) with outlines and written papers
- A total of 7 desktop and 11 laptop computers were available for student checkout
- 104 students have graduated with a Baccalaureate degree since 2001
The goal of the Office of Disability Services (ODS) is to provide the appropriate services for students with disabilities so they have a true college experience. Students who wish to receive services from ODS must provide documentation of their disability to the director of ODS. The director and student discuss the impact of the students’ disability in an educational setting and then determine what services would be appropriate while the student attends WSU. The student is the one who then chooses which of these services they will use in each class. ODS believes the student is responsible for using and advocating for services that will help them obtain a full college experience. Many people believe accommodations give students an unfair advantage in the class but ODS knows these services allow students with disabilities to participate alongside the other students in their classes. Success is never guaranteed, but ODS works hard to provide students complete access to the academic environment at WSU.

This past year has been an exciting year for ODS and we experienced several “firsts” in the 31 years of the department. We worked with 308 students in 2008-2009 academic year, which is by far the largest number of students we have worked with in any previous academic year. With increases in the number of students we served you would anticipate increases in the services we provide. Interpreting services were at record highs and the total hours of interpreting increased by 1,300 hours over the previous year with a total of 5,628 hours of interpreting. This is an all time record with the closest year being 2005-2006 where only 5,198 hours of interpreting were provided. ODS saw a large increase in the number of tests administered by our office --1,317, with 281 of these needing proctors. This past year ODS held its third annual Access College Today, a campus visitation program for students with disabilities. There were 73 students and 20 school personnel who attended this event. This 2009-2010 academic year promises to see more records broken and a continual increase in the number of students served by ODS.

2008-2009 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Served 308 students
- Provided 5,628 hours of interpreting services
- Provided 1,317 tests for students outside the classroom
- Received two new golf carts to provide escorts for students
- 28 ODS students graduated from WSU
- ODS students produced 4,529 credit hours

Office of Disability Services
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 132
Wichita KS 67260-0132
Phone: 316-978-3309
Website: http://webs.wichita.edu/disserv
Talent Search (TS) is the highest funded ($513,873) TRIO program in the state and serves the most students of any Kansas TRIO program (1,500). The program staff identifies middle school and high school students who have potential for success at the postsecondary level and encourages these students to complete secondary school, and enroll in postsecondary education.

Since two-thirds of the Program’s participants are low-income individuals who are potential first-generation college students, services to meet their unique academic needs are coordinated. The target area for the program includes high schools and middle schools in USD 259 and high schools in southeast Kansas.

Program counselors advise students on the Kansas Board of Regents pre-college curriculum to ensure postsecondary eligibility. A month-long summer program on high school preparation assists 8th grade students in making a successful transition from middle school to high school. Graduating seniors are advised on college choices and possible majors.

Students receive technical assistance in completing college admission applications and financial aid forms. Counselors assist students in utilizing convenient on-line applications. A computer lab for students to complete on-line applications and to complete the FAFSA is available.

Talent Search/Project Discovery
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 96
Wichita KS 67260-0096
Phone: 316-978-3127
Website: http://www.wichita.edu/talentsearch

Staff advises students on preparing for the ACT and SAT. The program’s resource library houses study guides and practice test materials. Computers with ACT preparation software are available and the program staff conducts preparation workshops during the year. ACT registration fee waivers are provided to low income students who meet specific criteria.

Tutoring is provided to students attending certain middle schools in USD 259. The program employs five tutors specializing in math, language arts and science. During the summer, 50 students participate in the program’s Middle School Summer Enrichment Program. This program is held on campus where students attend classes, participate on field trips and listen to motivational speakers. During the school year, the program collaborates with other pre-college TRIO and GEAR UP programs to offer homework assistance in the evenings.

2008-2009 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
- Served 1,587 students during the grant year
- 548 participants were continuing participants
- 72 percent were low income and potential first generation college students
- 32 percent were African American; 25 percent were White; and 20 percent were Hispanic/Latino
- 44 percent were males
- 99 percent of non-senior participants were promoted to the next grade level
- 98 percent of seniors graduated from high school
- 82 percent of college ready participants enrolled in postsecondary education for the fall term
The McNair Scholars Program was created by congress in 1989 in an effort to increase the number of minority persons pursuing teaching and administrative careers in higher education. The Program also serves as a tribute to Ronald E. McNair, who was an astronaut and crewmember of the space shuttle Challenger in 1986.

McNair was born in 1950 in the small community of Lake City, S.C. Upon graduation from high school, he set the ambitious goal of earning his doctoral degree within ten years. That goal was accomplished in 1976 when he graduated from M.I.T. with a doctorate in physics. While working on laser physics at the Hughes Research Laboratory, McNair was accepted into the astronaut program and was the second African American to fly in space. In 1986, the Challenger exploded 90-seconds into the flight- this was his second space mission.

In 1995, the McNair Scholars Program was inaugurated at WSU. Currently in its final grant cycle, serving 28 students each grant year, the program concentrates on providing quality services to ensure that participants graduate with a bachelor’s degree from WSU and improve their chances of entering post-baccalaureate study and ultimately attaining doctoral degrees.

The program is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Education. This Program was designed to provide research opportunities and other related academic experiences that promote the acquisition of doctoral degrees for first generation, low-income and underrepresented college students. The WSU program works with students from their sophomore through senior year, assisting them in preparing for graduate studies.

The various services offered through the Program are listed below.

- Assistance with developing personal and academic writing skills
- Course specific tutoring
- Summer research methods class
- Monthly faculty-led seminars, Communication Fitness internet based teaching and learning resource, grad prep/seminar meetings and research assembly meetings
- Faculty mentoring component
- Scholarly research throughout the academic year and summer program
- Opportunity to present research findings at local, regional and national conferences.
- GRE preparation
- College campus visits

Faculty Research Mentor Disciplines include:
- Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Criminal Justice, Economics, Education, Electrical & Computer Engineering, Fine Arts, Health Professions, History, Neurology, Physics, Political Science, Psychiatry, Psychology, School of Community Affairs, Sociology

2008-2009 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 195 students served by the Program since 1995
- 26 students currently enrolled in the Program
- 45 Past TRIO Participants
- 10 2008-2009 Program Graduates
- 141 students graduated with a baccalaureate degree since 1995
- 17 students currently enrolled in graduate program
- 47 students graduated with a master's degree since 1995
- 11 students graduated with a doctoral degree since 1995
- 5 students currently enrolled in doctoral programs
- Over 200 research presentations were conducted by students at local, regional, and/or national conferences

McNair Scholars Program
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 199
Wichita KS 67260-0199
Phone: 316-978-3139
Website: http://webs.wichita.edu/mcnair
The Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) Regional Center is federally funded and hosted by Wichita State University. With the support of the university and the cooperation of schools throughout Kansas, the program is designed to serve 50 students entering grades nine through 12 that have limited family incomes and have the potential to be the first in their families to complete a four-year degree. Mission of the UBMS Center is:

- Educate students with an interest and propensity for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)
- Stimulate interest in STEM studies and careers and realistically
- Motivate students to consider obtaining a degree in a STEM field

Students are encouraged to participate in an academic year component as well as summer, residential component. During the academic year, regional students maintain contact with the UBMS office and attend workshops presented in their home communities. Students that live in the Wichita metropolitan area participate in the leadership academy.

The academy attempts to prepare UBMS students for community leadership, both socially and academically. Students participate in bi-weekly academy seminars to sharpen their skills through community service, guest speakers, action planning, presentations and academic and post-secondary planning. Students in need of academic assistance also attend tutoring sessions on a weekly basis.

The ultimate goal of the program’s six-week summer program is to have students return to their schools and communities with a bolstered interest in science, math, and computer technology. For six weeks, participants attend a variety of courses developed to foster critical thinking, research and experimentation, and the art of presentation. All courses are hands-on in nature.

2008-2009 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Served 54 recruited or retained students
- Retained 80 percent of participants from 2007-2008
- Of the 19 students included in the 2009 graduation cohort, 14 or 74 percent are confirmed to have begun post-secondary study immediately following high school graduation
- The UBMS graduation class of 2003 graduated 23 students, of which 21 or 91 percent matriculated to post-secondary study
- As of fall 2009, 57 percent of the graduating class has completed post-secondary education or are currently enrolled in college

Upward Bound Math Science Reg. Center
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 156
Wichita KS 67260-0156
Phone: 316-978-3316
Website: http://www.wichita.edu/ubms
The Blueprint for a Lifetime of Success

The Upward Bound program mission seeks to provide an infrastructure that allows students to prepare for post-secondary education, complete secondary school and acquire skills and abilities for educational success. Services and activities are designed to improve academic and personal needs. The program’s primary goal is to assist limited-income, first-generation and secondary school students with disabilities in developing their academic potential. Building on years of experience, the program’s unique role resides in the opportunity to provide a summer residential experience on a college campus and a supportive academic year experience. Challenging students to perform to the best of their ability and realistically consider post-secondary degree attainment is important to the success of the program. The program affords students the opportunity to interact with a highly qualified and professional staff attuned to a student’s unique needs.

The Academic Year Component
This component provides support to students, augmenting academic instruction provided by the Wichita public school system. The component runs September - May of each year. Students participate in academic instruction, one-on-one tutoring in academic subjects, college and career exploration, seminars and workshops, campus visits, secondary & postsecondary preparation, social and cultural enrichment, financial aid application assistance, ACT Test preparation, personal guidance, leadership conferences, fundraisers, National TRIO Day activities and bi-weekly Saturday sessions. Bi-weekly Saturday sessions consist of tutorial assistance, dynamic speakers, workshops and community service projects. Activities are designed to improve skills in classes and enhance grades and general academic performance. Active participation of students is required to ensure improvement, preparation and support.

The Summer Residential Component
This component is an important structured experience for participants. Students are in residence Sunday to Friday for six to eight weeks on the beautiful WSU campus. The purpose of the component is to provide academic instruction, tutoring, guidance and counseling (individual and group), career information, post-secondary admissions advising and assistance, financial aid advising and assistance, and exposure to cultural events and academic programs. All activities are designed to stimulate a college-going experience for the participants. Summer participants include students who have successfully completed the academic year and eligible participants on the waiting list. Records of participants are reviewed to determine individualized schedules. Students are grouped according to their abilities. Prior to actual coursework, all students are assessed in all academic areas to determine placement. Pre and post testing assist in tracking and determining growth.

2008-2009 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
- The program provided over 550 tutoring hours to program participants
- 98.6 percent of students returned to the program in the fall of 2009
- 100 percent of all Seniors graduated from high school
- 70 percent of participating seniors enrolled in a postsecondary institution in the fall of 2009

Upward Bound Wichita Prep
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 94
Wichita KS 67260-0094
Phone: 316-978-3019
Website: http://webs.wichita.edu/ubwp
VUB encourages, supports, and prepares willing participants to attend postsecondary institutions that prepare them for higher paying jobs with greater job mobility, more flexible career opportunities and productive transition into civilian life. Comprehensive but academically focused services provided by the program aid participants in fully realizing educational potential and options.

The program designs courses, workshops and seminars, presentations, activities and services to ensure veterans have an opportunity to prepare and succeed in postsecondary education, a career and life after high school. The curriculum, services and activities include:

- Completing basic skills and advanced classes that prepare participants to successfully complete secondary and college courses.
- Understanding the state and national standards developed for course curriculums.
- Understanding advanced and basic skills for effectively using academic course techniques.
- Improving English and math skills, including comprehension, writing, speaking clearly, math concepts and the ability to pass English and math proficiency exams.
- Using techniques and strategies for test taking, study skills, critical thinking and improving reading and time management.
- Applying for financial aid and scholarships; reading a college catalog and registering for classes; and understanding how to apply for college.
- Exploring career options and understanding requirements to acquire skills and abilities (i.e. developing a resume and use of acquired skills).
- Communicating with other ethnic and racial groups.
- Pursuing other academic and educational avenues.

VUB is here to support Veterans in reaching their goals.

**2008-2009 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- 120 veterans received services
- 20 percent matriculated into the post-secondary program of their choice
- 10 percent received services through Disability Support Services
- 93 percent received personalized education and career counseling
- 100 percent received academic advice/assistance

Veterans Upward Bound
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 137
Wichita KS 67260-0137
Phone: 316-978-6742
Website: http://www.wichita.edu/VUB
TRIO Communication Upward Bound (CUB) offers high school students in Wichita an opportunity to improve their communication skills and learn how to work with and write for varied media outlets. CUB is the only Upward Bound program in the country focused on careers in communication.

The announcement of best of contest, gold and bronze medals along with quarterfinal and semifinal standings in the 2009 TRIO Quest competition ranks high on the list of this year’s accomplishments. Allen earned Best of Contest Media Quest with his entry of “Serenity.” One CUB student, Nicholas, demonstrated his musical skills and creativity to grab honors as a Gold Medal recipient for two consecutive years. “Enduring Soul” was the title of this year’s winning audio entry. Danielle, Kristen, Megan and James worked together on their public service announcement video, “Addiction vs. Success,” to earn a bronze award. These students are among the 50 youth striving to improve their communication skills, to learn how to produce websites and to create visual productions in a competitive marketplace and preparation for college.

Students completed their projects during the four-week intensive, residential summer program housed on the Wichita State University campus. A centerpiece of the CUB program -- the on-campus experience -- enhanced by the expertise of the faculty and staff in the Elliott School of Communication (ESC) and community media specialists. High school students discover the world of communication while developing their public speaking, writing and media production skills. Students worked independently and in small groups as they produced their videos and websites. They shared photographs, poems and other writing samples on the group’s first blog site this summer.

Community media professionals and ESC students contribute their time and skills to help mentor these future communicators. Year-round tutoring in all academic areas is a key means of assisting students with time management, decision making, and organizational skills that can develop their study habits. One Saturday a month, students go on field trips and participate in educational and cultural activities. CUB students volunteer at various nonprofit groups and area businesses to discover the importance of giving back to one’s community.

2008-2009 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 45 students attended the residential program, doubling the attendance over last year
- Seven CUB students are now seniors in high school and will be candidates for the program’s first graduating class in May 2010 and summer bridge students
- For the second year in a row, CUB students achieved high rankings in the 2009 TRIO Quest competition, including a best of contest, gold and bronze awards

Communication Upward Bound
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 31
Wichita KS 67260-0031
Phone: 316-978-6731
Website: http://wichita.edu/cub
Mission:
Student Support Services (SSS) provides a multiplicity of academic support services for limited income, first generation students and those with disabilities, enabling them to persist and graduate from WSU.

2008-2009 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- SSS implemented Council for Academic Standards (CAS) into the daily work of the program

- SSS received the highest level of funding for SSS-TRIO Programs in the state of Kansas: $417,257.00

- Tutoring Services: 291 WSU credit hours were supported through 870 hours of outcome-based individualized semester-long tutoring by 30 tutors, who are trained monthly through WSU course, CESP 750E Tutoring Techniques. Seven tutors earned College of Education credit through this course

- Advising: Academic, course selection, degree planning, academic success skills, career, personal, financial aid and graduate school entrance

- Educational and Cultural Enrichment Activities: Academic success skills development, textbook loan library, “Success” monthly SSS newsletter; 30th annual cultural spring fling; 30th Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet: graduates (52), scholarship awards (347) and tutors (30). Administrator of the Year was presented to Dr. Don Nance, executive director of WSU

- Technology Usage, Relational Database: Facilitates tracking, monitoring, documenting and evaluating student academic achievement in 15 computerized data files, with the assistance of 13 program manuals, thereby meeting measurable objectives in the U.S. Department of Education’s funded application. Services provided to students follow the Government Performance and Results Act guidelines

Student Support Services,
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 81
Wichita, KS 67260-0081
Phone: 316-978-3715
Website: webs.wichita.edu/sss
The Educational Opportunity Centers Program (EOC) mission seeks to provide educational opportunities for adults desiring to pursue their education beyond high school. The Center’s goal is to increase the number of adults in the target areas enrolling in colleges and universities. EOC has an infrastructure that allows adults to prepare for postsecondary education and acquire skills and abilities needed for college success. Services and activities are designed to enhance adult participants understanding of the connection between education and workforce. The program’s primary goal is to assist low-income, first generation, veterans and persons with disabilities. Assistance includes the completion and submission of college applications, financial aid applications and career exploration.

EOC’s unique role resides in the provision of pre-college academic success seminars (inclusive of computer technology labs) that prepare adults for technology smart classrooms. Offering research based strategies designed for adults seeking to balance academics, work, and their personal life commitments are important to the success of the program. The program affords adults the opportunity to interact with a highly qualified and professionally staff trained to understand the needs of the adult learner.

The concept of the EOC was developed in 1972. Today, there exists a total of 123 EOC programs, serving adults on a nationwide basis. The Wichita State University EOC program was funded in 2002 and housed at the Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex with the university serving as the host institution.

**2008-2009 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:**
- 1,000 adults received program services
- 3/4 were first generation/limited income
- 837 were age 28 and above
- 205 reported having a disability
- 36 served were Veterans
- 20 were limited English speaking

Program services included:
- 12 Group Intakes/Orientation Sessions
- 3 Right Start to College 101 Seminars
- 77 Financial Aid Workshops Modules
- 85 Admissions Advising Modules
- 10 Grants and Scholarships Modules
- 27 Computer Technology Labs
- 6 High School Completion Class Orientations
- 25 Homework Assistance Labs
- 16 GED Group Advising Sessions
- 350 adults reported entering/re-entering college
- FAFSA funding awarded to participants: $322,043.60
- New this year: Summer Fun for Adult Learners: Summer Book Club, Essay Writing Lab, Passport Virtual Travel Club and Digital Camera Lab
- Held Adult Learner Week Celebration/Ceremony where 289 college ready adults were recognized, Proclamations were issued by the City of Wichita and the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners to recognize adult learners

Educational Opportunity Centers Program
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 112
Wichita KS 67260-0112
Phone: 316-978-7800
Website: http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=frances&p=/eochome
Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP (KKGU) is a state partnership grant, whose priority population are students in foster care. While investigating the needs of foster children and reviewing established data, it was discovered that nearly 40 percent of foster children do not graduate from high school and even fewer attempt college. The need is clear and the immediate goal of KKGU is to assist the target population to reach high school graduation, and prepare participants for postsecondary education.

KKGU completed six years of providing college access and academic support service to foster care and low-income children across Kansas. Throughout the 2008-2009 grant year, all six service regions (Pittsburg, Kansas City, Topeka, Pratt, Wichita and Emporia) provided support services and summer programming across the state.

Additional KKGU goals include: supporting students academically by providing after school programming, providing college access services (i.e. college tours and career exploration services) and by hosting evening and weekend programming, such as family nights to educate families about requirements for postsecondary educational programs. The KKGU summer programs help students choose careers and explore the education needed to pursue those careers.

KKGU was able to offer scholarships to high school seniors enrolled and participating in the program. These high school graduates received scholarships ranging from $300 to $3,000 a semester, depending on their financial need. Scholarships are used as an incentive to improve academic performance, high school graduation rates and efforts towards setting career goals.

The goal for the current year is to provide students with educational resources in the areas of the state where they may be currently living and to examine the impacts of participation in KKGU on low-income and students in foster care.

2008-2009 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
- More than 1800 students received or were referred to appropriate college access services
- 221 KKGU seniors graduated from High School
- 150 middle school students participated in summer programs
- 23 prior KKGU students receiving a KKGU scholarship, graduated from college
- For 2008-2009, 97 students were awarded scholarships for the fall and spring semesters totaling $295,550
- For 2009-2010, 162 students were awarded scholarships for the fall and spring semesters totaling $647,230
- For the 2004-2010 academic years, KK@GU will have distributed more than $2 million in scholarships to low-income and students in foster care

July 2009: WSU was awarded a new GEAR UP grant from the U.S. Department in the amount of $36,000,000.00 for the next 6 years (includes matching funds).

Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 110
Wichita KS 67260-0110
Phone: 316-978-7810
Website: http://www.wichita.edu/gearup
Chris

Goals are important in life for Chris, and he wants to break the family tradition and become the first graduate from a four-year college. It would be a personal goal and honor to be a first generation status graduate. Some of his other personal goals include completing his high school diploma from a Wichita high school in May 2010 and then getting a degree in journalism.

His interest in writing started before he entered the sixth grade. Chris was introduced to the TRIO Communication Upward Bound (CUB) program by one of his high school counselors. Their job to keep him motivated and interested in excellent performance has been an easy one. As Chris stated in an essay, “When I first started high school and walked through the doors as a freshman, one of the first things I did was check through my student planner to see the requirement to be accepted into a Kansas Board of Regents School. It was my own personal goal to meet at least two of the three requirements. Throughout high school, I made sure that my GPA was never lower than 3.0.”

As a participant in the CUB program since its inception, Chris has continued to ask questions about scholarship opportunities during the Homework Assistance Program sessions and visited his school’s College Career Center to learn more about financial assistance, academic awards and how to enroll in college. He has made special appointments to come into the CUB office to complete ACT prep examinations.

He believes that his involvement in CUB will give him a better understanding of college. His summer, residential experiences proved to be valuable because Wichita State University had an easier campus to navigate than a lot of other colleges he had visited. During his time in CUB, he took classes in Elliott Hall and stayed in Fairmount Towers, which gave him a taste of dorm life and living with new people.

Chris is a determined and focused senior who is enjoying his last year of high school. He currently works part-time and maintains a 3.5 Cumulative Grade Point average. He has demonstrated his love for journalism by entering TRIO Quest competitions, writing stories for CatchitKansas and his high school newspaper. He has served as a reporter and now holds the position of Editor. He was recently accepted to Wichita State University and plans to become one of the first bridge students in the CUB program.
Terry

Terry was recently featured on CNN News (by KWCH's Kim Wilhelm) as the Kansas man who could draw “50 States in 90 Seconds”. Before this recent newfound fame, Terry was a participant in the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) Program.

Terry is a Caucasian male who came to the EOC Program for assistance with understanding his educational, career, and financial aid options. He is a first-generation college student, and as a single parent he wanted to model the importance of education for his daughter. Terry had always wanted to attend college in the past, but his work schedule and other life obstacles kept him from achieving this dream.

As a program participant, Terry was required to complete and submit an Educational Action Plan. This plan included pre-college program services designed to ensure that Terry had the skills and knowledge he needed to be successful in college. By attending computer labs, he learned the basics of the Microsoft Office software, internet searching skills, and the tenets of a smart classroom. Terry was also enrolled in career exploration labs and college search labs as a means to help him to confirm his educational pathway. The Right Start to College 101 Seminar ensured that Terry had a strong foundation on learning styles, study skills, and had created a support network. As a graduate of this seminar, he was awarded a certificate and given a copy of the seminar book ‘Making Your Mark.’ Other workshops Terry was required to attend were Financial Aid, College Application, and Grants/Scholarships—all facilitated by the EOC program.

Terry successfully entered post-secondary education for the first time in Fall 2008. He is currently attending Butler County Community College and is working on his Associates of Applied Science in Addictions Counseling. He was excited to inform his Program Specialist, Salyi Vu, that he has maintained A’s and B’s in his coursework. Terry plans to transfer to Wichita State University in the Fall 2012 semester to continue working towards a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and then on toward earning a Master’s degree.

Terry was quoted as saying: “I don’t think I would have been able to make it this far if it was not for the help that I have gotten from EOC, because no one ever tells us all the things we needed to know about going to college [when I was growing up]. The EOC Program also encouraged me to share my talents and to begin to use them to contribute to society.” Terry, now working in a local social service agency, advocates the importance of a college education for the youth.
Amber

After hearing about Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) from the Ark Valley News, Amber said, “Why not?” and with the same confidence that she has displayed throughout her nine years in the National Guard, she joined the program. This Park City, Kansas native enlisted with the Guard in her junior year of high school. As a high school honor roll graduate, she values education. “This program (VUB) has given me the confidence and study skills to pursue my college degree,” says Amber. She has enrolled at Wichita State University following her dream to be a psychologist.

Her service in the 891st Engineer Battalion contained a myriad of experiences. After September 11, 2001 her unit was called to active duty. At Mid-Continent Airport she implemented the new screening process and guidelines with airport security. For a year she served at McConnell AFB assisting the Security Police under Operation Noble Eagle. After the devastating Greensburg tornado, her unit assisted the town by removing debris and rebuilding park structures. One of her favorite duties occurred in 2002 at the Kansas State Fair when she staffed a recruitment booth for the Guard.

Amber also served in Iraq where she worked as an intelligence analyst. Separation from her son was very difficult, but current computer/video technology allowed her to see him, which alleviated some stress. While in Iraq she met military personnel from all over the world and during down time Amber taught them to dance the two-step.

Amber’s concern for others was constant in spite of facing difficult things in life. While facing the “bad” in Iraq, she also experienced the “good.” Her unit dropped off food and water to civilians. Amber personally gave candy and gum to the children and taught them how to blow bubbles. Amber’s experiences increased her respect for the Veterans who preceded her, especially from the Vietnam era. This Veteran makes it a point to say “thank you” whenever she encounters another member of this patriotic fellowship.
The Blueprint for a Lifetime of Success

Student Profile-McNair

Adella

Adella graduated from Central Senior High in Beaumont, Texas, in 1992 and received her cosmetology license two years later. She moved to Topeka, Kansas and worked as a cosmetologist, then to Wichita and opened up a daycare. One day watching one of her favorite television shows, Judge Mathis, Adella heard him speak about his experiences as a youth and obtaining a college degree. This inspired her to go to school so she enrolled at Wichita State University majoring in pre-law. After taking a few classes, Adella decided that law was not for her. However, from the law classes, Adella found an interest in reform and recidivism and viewed the criminal justice system in America as severely flawed. This inspired her to want to be a part of the solution, so she changed her major to criminal justice.

Adella first came in contact with the McNair Scholars Program when she received a newsletter in the mail inviting her to apply. While in McNair, Adella was able to participate in two research projects, first working with Anna Chandler Ph.D. (Ethnic Studies) where Adella examined the recidivism rates of DUI offenders in the state of Kansas. Adella’s second research project titled The Effectiveness of the DUI Pilot Court Program for Reducing DUI Recidivism was a continuance of her previous research where she examined the effectiveness of three different types of DUI pilot courts under the supervision of Brian Withrow, Ph.D. (Criminal Justice).

Being the first in her family to obtain a college degree has been very challenging for Adella. She had to deal with those who laughed at her and told her that she could not do it. Adella allowed the “haters” to become her “motivators and elevators” (from the words of her mentor, William Hoston, Ph.D.) Adella also had to deal with the financial burdens of being a single parent. She did not receive any financial support from her parents, which made it even more difficult to get through tough times. However, Adella was more determined and her faith in God allowed her to float through the trials and tribulations. There would be times that her church would assist her financially in order to keep her lights and gas on at home. Her motto, “If you take one step for God, he’ll take two steps for you.”

Adella credits her success to many mentors that cared enough to encourage her, and loved her enough to tear up her papers and make her rewrite them when they were not up to par. This is what made her work harder as a student. Adella simply did not want to disappoint the people that had invested so much time and knowledge. The McNair Scholars Program changed her way of thinking. She began seeing her life through a different lens. She now sees a light at the end of the tunnel. The McNair Program gave her the opportunity to speak at conferences (Adella’s favorite), which has allowed her to network with other colleges and students (some whom she still keeps in contact). She tells everyone she meets about the McNair Scholars Program because it has been very instrumental in her development as a graduate student.

Adella is currently enrolled in the Masters of Criminal Justice Program at Wichita State University.

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