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To learn more about Wichita State University Special Programs and TRIO Day 2016 go to: wichita.edu/triodayezine

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Introduction

TRIO Day 2016 is coming very soon and will be here on February 11, 2016. The Office of Special Programs (OSP) is anticipating hosting close to 400 attendees at the banquet. At the banquet, the programs will honor Building Bridges honorees and selected students for monumental accomplishments. During the day, a town hall meeting with USD 259 School Board President Betty Arnold and school board members will give students an opportunity to ask questions and allow parents and the community to share their concerns.

The OSP at Wichita State University (WSU) administers 15 quality programs and includes: nine TRIO programs—Communication Upward Bound, Disability Student Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers Program, Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, Student Support Services, Talent Search, Upward Bound Math Science, Upward Bound Wichita Prep, and Veterans Upward Bound. There are also three Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) including the state-wide Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP, North Wichita GEAR UP and South Wichita GEAR UP. Additionally, the Office of Disability Services (ODS) and a Homework Assistance Program fall under the OSP umbrella.

Wichita State is also proud of the individuals who have participated in the programs and work at the University.

This year, the programs are celebrating, along with the U.S. Department of Education, the 50th anniversary of the TRIO Talent Search Program. Talent Search was founded in 1977 at Wichita State University. Last year, the 50th anniversary of Upward Bound Wichita Prep program was acknowledged. OSP is proud of the programs and all that has been accomplished. In looking at the legacy of the programs, the many services and activities offered have been critical to their success. The programs provide tutorial support, instruction, financial aid and career exploration, and advising and counseling for participants. The staffs are dedicated and committed to the success and progress of participants.

The TRIO, GEAR UP, and ODS program have planned an exceptional town hall meeting with School Board President Betty Arnold and a quality banquet program. The staffs of the Office of Special Programs are the motivators for the TRIO Day celebration and the driving force to implement successful programs and services. The programs are to be applauded for their dedication and commitment. Thanks to all stakeholders for their support. TRIO, GEAR UP and ODS Works! The OSP looks forward to the continued support and participation of university and community individuals at the program on February 11, 2016.

Deltha Q. Colvin
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

Hercilia Thompson (administrative officer, Office of the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs), Alan Dsouza, PhD (policy analyst director, Office of Special Programs)
Simeon Willis, an Upward Bound Wichita Prep student, was chosen to go to Washington, D.C. as a member of the Boys Nation program. Two representatives from each of the 49 Boys States represent their state at Boys Nation in Washington, where the young leaders receive an education on the structure and function of the federal government.

Students from Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP, Talent Search and Upward Bound Math Science Center were chosen to attend the First Lady’s Beating the Odds Summit as part of her Reach Higher Initiative in July. The event focused on sharing tools and strategies students can use to successfully transition to college and the resources they will need to persist and complete the next level of their education.

The day-long event included a panel moderated by E! News host Terrence Jenkins, which featured First Lady Michelle Obama, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, musical artist Wale, and Manuel Contreras, a rising senior at Brown University. Wale performed a concert for the students. President Barack Obama made a special appearance and provided words of wisdom and encouragement.

Additionally, students participated in workshops and panels led by the U.S. Department of Education, Google’s Jaime Casap, and other leaders in K-12 and postsecondary education.
Upward Bound Wichita Prep (UBWP) is a college preparatory program that has been in existence since 1965. UBWP assists low-income, first-generation college-bound high school students to complete their secondary education, while preparing them for college. The program’s unique offerings include an academic year program and a summer residential college experience.

UBWP’s services and activities are designed to nurture students’ growth in academics, career exploration, financial literacy, leadership building, cultural enrichment, and volunteer opportunities. The staff challenges students to perform to their best while taking into account each student’s unique needs for tutoring and postsecondary education counseling. Active participation is required in order to ensure that students reach their potential.

UBWP’s summer residential component can be an extraordinary and life-changing experience for participants. Students live in the Wichita State residence halls for six to eight weeks. Each activity is designed to emulate an authentic college experience. The students selected to participate in the summer experience have successfully completed the academic year component. Participants’ academic records, as well as an individual assessment, are used to design a personalized plan of support services.
Eligible students have discovered that many of their concerns about succeeding in school can be addressed by the Talent Search program at Wichita State. The program has served middle school and high school students in Wichita public schools (USD 259) since 1977. The program identifies, encourages and assists 1,165 low-income and potential first generation college students each year to complete a secondary education, enroll in postsecondary education, and complete a postsecondary program.

Target schools include Allison, Brooks, Coleman, Curtis, Jardine, Marshall, Mayberry, Pleasant Valley, Robinson, Stucky, Truesdell, Wilbur, East, Heights, Metro Boulevard, Metro Meridian, North, Northeast Magnet, Northwest, South, Southeast, and West. The staff provided information to students on college admissions, financial literacy, and ACT/SAT test preparation. In addition, campus visits to colleges and universities were held throughout the school year.

The Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) provided postsecondary preparation for 73 middle school students. Instruction in math, computer technology, language arts, financial literacy, science, and theatre arts was delivered. Campus visits and career speakers motivated students to consider future aspirations. The SEP culminated with an academic awards ceremony.
The TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Program at Wichita State University is funded by the U.S. Department of Education to provide academic services that promote college persistence and graduation. The program serves first-generation college students from families with limited income and students with disabilities. Program staff include a director, assistant director, data specialist, advisor, administrative assistant, student assistants and 30 tutors.

Services provided by SSS include individualized tutoring, academic success skills development, FAFSA completion, course selection, academic advisement and counseling, degree planning, scholarships, career exploration, and graduate school advising.

The program serves 250 students each academic year and all services are provided at no cost to students. SSS has provided free academic support services to students at Wichita State since 1970. Students’ academic success and graduation is the goal of the program.
The goal of the Office of Disability Services (ODS) is to provide appropriate services for students with disabilities so they have a true college experience. Students receiving services from ODS provide documentation of their disability. The director and student discuss the impact of the student’s disability to determine the services that would be most beneficial. The student chooses appropriate services needed for each class.

ODS believes the student is responsible for using and advocating for services that will help in becoming successful. Accommodations do not give students an unfair advantage in the class but allows students with disabilities to participate alongside the other students in the class. Success is not guaranteed, but ODS works to provide students complete access to the academic environment at Wichita State.

ODS worked with 462 students during the 2014-2015 academic year. Of these, 130 were students receiving services for the first time. ODS held the 8th Annual Access College Today, a campus visitation program for students with disabilities from area high schools. There were 56 students and 17 school personnel who attended the event. 2015-2016 was another busy year and the staff anticipates increases in the number of services provided by ODS for the upcoming year.
The TRIO Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) Center, in its 23rd year at Wichita State, continues to serve students from target area schools in Kansas. UBMS selected 74 students who showed promise for study in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Students participated in academic year and summer components. Activities focused on college preparation, academic growth and non-cognitive skills development to remove barriers to postsecondary education.

Leadership, self-management, community service and personal advocacy were common topics for seminars and workshops. Students attended student-led, teacher-facilitated academic support sessions and test taking workshops. Campus tours and cultural field trips were held throughout the academic year.

During the summer, 74 students participated in a curriculum-driven, residential experience. Students bolstered their interest in STEM while attending courses designed to develop critical thinking, research, experimentation, and presentation skills.

2014-2015 UBMS Highlights

86% postsecondary matriculation
8 campus visits
16 student projects showcased

College Access Challenge Grant Activities

Family Nights
15 students in college bridge program
The TRIO McNair Scholars Program is a federally funded program designed to provide research and scholarly activities that promote the acquisition of a doctoral degree for first generation, low-income and underrepresented college students. The program was created in 1989 to increase the number of minorities pursuing teaching and administrative careers in higher education.

The program is named after Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D. 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. During McNair’s second mission, the Challenger exploded 90 seconds into its flight, killing all seven crewmembers.

In 1995, Wichita State received funding from the U.S. Department of Education to begin the McNair Scholars Program. The program provides services to ensure that participants graduate with bachelor’s degrees and improve their chances of entering graduate programs leading to doctoral degrees. The McNair Program serves 28 students each year and is funded through 2017.
Celebrating Fifty Years

Talent Search is an early intervention program that serves students in grades sixth through 12. Talent Search helps people from families with incomes of no more than 150 percent of the poverty level to better understand their educational opportunities and options.

Talent Search was authorized under the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965. It was part of a “TRIO” of federally funded college access and success programs. The other two were Upward Bound (also authorized in the 1965 HEA) and Student Support Services (created in 1968). The Office of Education in 1965 developed Talent Search as an outreach program to identify low-income students with high potential and to help them access federal financial aid to enter and complete college.

Today, Talent Search is one of eight TRIO programs.
Talent Search

Studies show
Talent Search students are more likely to apply for financial aid and to enroll in college.

All 50 states including Washington, D.C., Guam, and Puerto Rico have Talent Search projects.

79% of students who participate in Talent Search are admitted to college.

Talent Search was established at Wichita State University in 1977.

Sources:
1. http://www.coenet.us
The TRIO Disability Support Services (DSS) program at Wichita State has been in existence since 2001. The goal of the program is to increase college retention and graduation rates for students with learning, physical and psychological disabilities.

DSS services include academic advising, course selection and degree planning, personal counseling, individualized tutoring, career exploration, study/life skills workshops, financial aid advice, grant aid/scholarships, financial aid/economic literacy instruction, computer lab usage, graduate school information and selection, textbook/calculator/computer loan program, and campus/community involvement.

DSS is one of the first TRIO programs designed specifically for students with disabilities in the state and is currently one of only 25 across the nation. Staff disseminates information to university faculty, staff, students and community about disability awareness.

Tutors assist students in undergraduate courses during the grant year. Program students utilize the DSS and Office of Disability Services adaptive computer lab equipped with 10 workstations. The study skills library includes 40 instructional videos and is available for student checkout.
The mission of the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) Program is to provide services for adults desiring to pursue education beyond high school. The center’s goal is to increase the number of adults enrolling in postsecondary education.

EOC accomplishes its mission through the staff and the vision that educational access is also for first generation, limited income, under-employed, veterans or persons with disabilities. Staff are dedicated to the academic, cultural and economic development of adult learners.

EOC prepares adults for postsecondary education by helping them to acquire the skills needed for college success. Services and activities enhance participants’ understanding of the connection between education and careers. Services include submission of college and financial aid applications, college selection, upgrading computer skills, career assessment, and improving financial literacy.

Central to the success of the program are the development of individual education action plans. Participants are assessed to identify barriers to education including academic, financial and personal constraints. The program affords adults the opportunity to interact with a highly trained staff who understand the needs of adults entering or reentering postsecondary institutions.
In August 2015, Wichita State was awarded a seven year GEAR UP statewide grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP (KKGU), serves students in foster care and state custody. KKGU assists this target population to reach high school graduation and prepare for postsecondary education. Six service regions provide support services and summer programming across the state.

KKGU goals include supporting students through after-school programming, college tours, career exploration, and family nights designed to educate foster families on the requirements for postsecondary programs. The KKGU summer programs help students choose careers and explore the educational requirements of careers.

KKGU also awards financial need-based scholarships to program students. Scholarships are used as incentives to improve academic performance, high school graduation rates and efforts towards setting career goals.
Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) provides a wide array of educational services to qualifying veterans: tutoring, workshops, counseling, academic and career planning, financial literacy and referrals. VUB assists veterans by focusing on the following:

- Assessment of academic skills
- Basic skills development
- Postsecondary enrollment
- College retention and completion
- Improving English and math skills
- Strategies for study skills and test taking
- Assistance in applying for financial aid, scholarships and GI Bill funding

In 2014-2015, Veterans Providers Coalitions of Sedgwick County (VPCSC) was established to organize and streamline resources in the community to better serve veterans. VPCSC met once a month to address the needs of veterans in the areas of community outreach, counseling, education & certification, homeless support, housing & financial assistance, job assessment & placement and medical services. The goal was to unite the various service organizations to work as one unit when addressing the circumstances in the lives of veterans.
The TRIO Communication Upward Bound (CUB) program started in 2008 and is the only one of 816 Upward Bound programs in the nation exclusively serving students interested in the communication industry. CUB partners with the administration, faculty and staff of the Elliott School of Communication at Wichita State, as well as communication professionals in the community, to provide communication-related training and college preparation for students. The program’s funding is $250,000 and serves 50 students each year.

The mission of CUB is to help eligible youth graduate from high school and enter college while teaching them valuable skills in the communication, marketing and media professions. An important element of CUB is a four-week intensive, residential summer component for high school students. They live on campus in residence halls and attend classes taught by area professionals along with WSU faculty and staff. Students learn about the world of communication while expanding public speaking, writing, photography and media production skills.

The first students of the CUB program completed their four-year degree in December 2014. Christopher Michael Hardesty and Lelia Durch-Anderson graduated from Wichita State.
North Wichita GEAR UP (NWGU) is a federally funded project. The overall goal of the project is to increase the number of students graduating from high school that are prepared for enrollment in postsecondary institutions. The project receives $740,000 annually for six years. The project will track students during the seventh year as they complete their first year of college.

NWGU serves seven schools in the Wichita Public Schools. NWGU serves a cohort of 925 students from seventh grade through graduation. Project services include career, academic, and personal counseling, early intervention programs, cultural activities, mentoring, Saturday and after school tutoring, workshops for parents and professional development for teachers.

The goals of NWGU include:
1) Increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.
2) Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.
3) Increase North Wichita GEAR UP students’ and their families’ knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation and financing.

2014-2015 NWGU Highlights

- Math Academy Camps
- College Campus Tours
- Community Service Events
- Parent Workshops
- Academic Advising
South Wichita GEAR UP (SWGU) is a U.S. Department of Education funded project. The overall goal of the project is to increase the number of students graduating from high school who are prepared for enrollment in postsecondary institutions. Annually, the project serves 925 students from six target schools in the Wichita Public School District (USD 259). Wichita State receives $740,000 with a match equal to that amount. Over the life of the grant, funds will total nearly $10,000,000 including matching funds.

Project components include counseling (career, academic, personal), early intervention programs, rigorous curriculum advising, mentoring, Saturday and after school tutoring, and workshops/trainings for parents and professional educators.

SWGU has three main goals for project students and their families: Increase academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education; increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education; and increase knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation and financing.
Advanced academic performance and post-secondary readiness is the focus of the Homework Assistance Program (HAP) which was established in 2008 as a collaboration among the pre-college TRIO programs and Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP.

In recent years, HAP has operated as a separate entity funded, in part, by the U.S. Department of Education and hosted by Wichita State University (WSU). The program has expanded its mission for the students who use the program’s services. The HAP staff believes that the competition for college admission has increased. College admissions is not just about graduating and academic achievement, but instead students entering college are challenged to demonstrate the discipline associated with rigorous curricula in the focus areas of writing, math, science, and technology.

Monday-Thursday HAP connects students with certified teachers and collegiate tutors, providing drop-in tutoring and homework assistance to eligible Wichita Public Schools students in grades six through twelve. HAP is not just an afterschool program. Collaborative services augment the objectives of TRIO and GEAR UP, as well as the current STEM education initiative. Students have access to laptops, a printer, and school supplies to complete their assignments and projects. In addition to tutoring, ACT, financial aid, and financial literacy workshops are conducted on a monthly basis.
The Student Support Services 36th Annual Student Recognition and Awards Ceremony took place Friday, April 17, 2015 in the Rhatigan Student Center, Shirley Beggs Ballroom, from 12:00-1:30pm.

1. Alex Mages received recognition for being a recipient of the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Scholarship for 2014/2015
2. Tuyet Ha (pictured below) received recognition for both the Antoine Toubia Scholarship (SP2015) and the EOF Scholarship 2014/2015
3. Simone Cosper received recognition for both the Dr. Christine Thelen Scholarship (FL2014) and the EOF Scholarship 2014/2015

The Disability Support Services luncheon was held on April 30, 2015 at 11:30 am. At this year’s luncheon, Mel Thompson, representative of Senator Pat Roberts, and Wichita City Council Woman Lavonta Williams addressed the audience. DSS recognized a total of 21 graduates during the 2014-2015 school year. Two students spoke about how the program has helped them succeed in achieving their goals in education. Student speakers were Student of the Year recipient Chris Wiebe and graduate Tamathy Russell.

Each year DSS gives three awards. This year’s award winners were:
1. Student of the Year: Chris Wiebe (pictured above)
2. Tutor of the Year: Dave Lombard
3. Lighthouse Award: Dr. Stephen Brady
TRIO Programs are funded 100% and GEAR UP is funded 50% by the U.S. Department of Education and hosted by Wichita State University under the Division of Student Affairs.

The TRIO and GEAR UP pre-college programs are also supported by funds from the Kansas Board of Regents under the College Access Challenge Grant program.

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