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)