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.