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To learn more about Wichita State University Special Programs and TRIO Day 2016 go to: wichita.edu/triodayezine
TRIO Day 2016 is just around the corner. The staff are excited to celebrate the success of the Office of Special Programs departments and students. The Wichita School Board is being recognized for its contributions and will be conducting a Town Hall Meeting, open to the community. It is our hope that community members join us to ask questions of interest. School Board President Betty Arnold is excited about the opportunity to interact with students and the community.

Each of the programs have provided information about a student to give a sense of who they serve. The programs are proud of the support, commitment, contributions and most of all, the efforts of the students to look at their future. TRIO, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) and the Office of Disability Services (ODS) programs will honor the accomplishments their students. The hard work and contributions of the students are phenomenal. It is great that the programs acknowledge individuals for their academic contributions. It will be very exciting to have their family with them to support their efforts.

It is also exciting to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Talent Search Program nationally. The Wichita State University Program started its legacy in 1977. Decisions about career and personal development are important.

Programs continue to aid student performance. Students have worked to make their academic performance important for their education advancement and staff continue to help students see the importance of educational advancement early in their education. Congratulations to the magazine staff for designing an extraordinary publication and the committees for planning a very good TRIO day celebration. The year-long effort that goes into making the celebration a quality one is important.

Deltha Q. Colvin
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
The USD 259 Board of Education is the district’s leadership team. This body is responsible for understanding how students can receive the best possible education to empower and prepare them for the 21st century. The board ensures that the educational experience is “coherent, rigorous, safe and nurturing, culturally responsive, and inclusive learning community.” Board members are elected or chosen at-large and represent the six voting districts. Board members include President Betty Arnold, Vice President Mike Rodee and district representatives Babara Fuller, Sheril Logan, Joy Eakins, Jeff Davis, and Lynn Rogers. Superintendent John Allison serves on the board as well. The following is a brief biography of each Board of Education member.

Betty Arnold (president) – Originally from Hope, AR, Arnold has a business degree from Wichita State and is a retired auditor of the State of Kansas, Department of Labor. Arnold has been a member of the board since 2007 and represents District 1.

Mike Rodee (vice president) – Representing District 5, Rodee and was born in Ellinwood, KS and is a graduate of Emporia State University. He is owner of South Central Sealing, LLC. His area of focus is reading skills and fiscal responsibility. Rodee has been a board member since 2013.

Babara Fuller – A board member since 2007, Fuller hails from Chicago, IL and has an education degree from the University of Arkansas and master’s from Wichita State. She represents District 3 and is a retired educator. Her area of focus is curriculum and instruction.

Sheril Logan – Focused on increasing the graduate rate of district students, Logan is an at-large board member. She is from Hutchinson, KS and received both an undergraduate and graduate degree in education from Wichita State. Logan has been a board member since 2011.

Joy Eakins – Representing District 2 and board member since 2013, Eakins is from Houston, TX. She focused on community and parental involvement. She has math degrees from the University of Mississippi (BS) and the University of Colorado (MS), as well as a master’s in theological studies.

Jeff Davis – A native Wichitan and police sergeant for the Wichita Police Department, Davis represents District 4. He is a graduate of South High School and is a member of the Kansas Association of School Boards. Davis has been a board member since 2007.

Lynn Rogers – A board member since 2011, Rogers was born in Fremont, NE and has a business degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is vice president and senior relationship manager-leasing for CoBank Farm Credit Leasing. Rogers represents District 6.

John Allison (superintendent) – Serving as superintendent of Wichita Public Schools since 2009, Allison believes that community involvement in education is essential for student success. He has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Kansas and a master’s from Emporia State University.
Mark Guzman has been in Upward Bound Wichita Prep (UBWP) since his sophomore year. He is a senior at East High School and is currently undecided about which university he will attend in the fall.

Understanding that a degree in aerospace engineering will present a difficult road ahead, Trang began challenging herself by taking rigorous courses in high school and maintaining a high grade point average (currently 3.50). She also began taking courses at Wichita Area Technical College (WATC) because she wanted to get a head start toward a mechanical engineering certification. She will complete the WATC certification in 2016.

Additionally, Trang is an active member of numerous and diverse organizations including the National Honors Society, Asian Club, Science Olympiad, Environment Club, and the Leadership Advisors Council. She is also the president of the Anime Club. While she enjoys contributing to these organizations, Trang loves to give back by volunteering as well. In fact, she has accumulated over 150 service hours and currently volunteers at Via Christi St. Joseph in Wichita.

Trang is a hardworking, driven, and ambitious young woman. As such, she had the honor of being invited to various conferences and summer camps. For example, Trang was selected to attend the Educational Opportunity Association Girls in STEM conference last May. She was also selected to attend an aerospace engineering camp at WSU. Trang was also a finalist for the 2015 Miss Teen USA pageant.
Annabel Rodriguez is a young lady with multiple roles. One role is being a receptionist at the Kansas Heart Hospital, which she enjoys because she makes a difference in patients’ lives. Another role is being a mother of two beautiful daughters, Nayeli and Aubrianna. They are her inspiration to her career. The third role is being a student at Wichita State University where she plans to graduate and become a dentist hygienist to educate the public about the importance of proper oral hygiene.

Even though her life as a college student is a challenge because of her multiple roles, Annabel is determined to graduate next year. She has a GPA of 3.7 and has made the College of Health Professions Dean’s List.

Annabel loves to volunteer and help people who are in need. Giving back to the community is what inspires her in life. The best remedy she recommends when holding so much stress and responsibility is to smile and not to forget to make someone laugh daily. She believes that every person has the potential to be successful in life, but all it takes is motivation and dedication.

Being in the Student Support Service Program has taught Annabel that there are individuals who care and want to help students accomplish their dreams.

Dawn Gorans served for eight years in the United States Air Force. She worked in Account and Finance at Ramstein AFB, GE and McConnell AFB, KS. Her accounting background landed her at Scholfield Auto Plaza where she worked in accounting for 13 years.

In 2011, Dawn was provided an opportunity to return to school with a full scholarship through the Veteran’s Administration Vocational Rehabilitation Program. A single mom of two children, changing career fields and having very little college credit was neither in her favor, nor an easy venture. However, as motivated as she was, she could not pass up the opportunity and accepted the challenge.

Dawn started college with a focus in medical laboratory sciences, but later, decided to change to health service management and community development. Inspite of family responsibilities, she has maintained a 3.30 grade point average. She is currently scheduled to graduate in May 2016.

Dawn is not only a beneficiary of the Office of Disability Services (ODS), but since 2013, she has also worked for the ODS performing a variety of jobs and interacting with other students and faculty.
Taylor Bishop is a senior at Hutchinson High School and one of the first Hutchinson students served by the Upward Bound Math Science program (UBMS). She is a three year student in the program and will graduate from high school in 2016.

Taylor, at first glance, is seemingly shy and without opinion. It doesn't take long to learn that while she is shy, she is full of well-researched and diverse opinions, which she will share with those willing to listen. Taylor is a budding scholar with a quiet intelligence that can be halting.

Recently named a Questbridge scholar, Taylor received a full scholarship to attend Notre Dame University where she will begin her quest to become a doctor of internal medicine. Taylor is motivated, in part, by experiences that she has shared with her family involving her sister and a recently diagnosed illness. Her desire to help others is coupled with a desire to focus her efforts on indigent populations and those without the financial wherewithal to cover the costs of major medical events.

Taylor is proud of her family and all that they have weathered together. She leans on her family for support and looks to them for guidance. She was pleased when her family grew to include the UBMS family. Her extended support group has watched her successfully navigate the International Baccalaureate program, National Honor Society and now UBMS. The staff looks forward to her continued success.

Phillip Pettis participated in the McNair Scholars Program from 2006 to 2009. He is one example of the TRIO pipeline, where students move from precollege to college TRIO programs.

As a high school student, Phillip was involved in Upward Bound Math Science. After graduating from high school, he was awarded a scholarship and decided to attend Wichita State. Phillip joined the McNair program after realizing his desire to pursue a doctoral degree. He earned his undergraduate degree in psychology in 2009.

Phillip discovered what he loved through his experiences with McNair. “They make you a researcher,” he said during the McNair alumni panel in May 2014. He completed three McNair research projects under Rhonda K. Lewis, Ph.D. involving gay male body image and sexuality. He won first place for his research presentation at the Eighth Annual Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum at Wichita State in 2008.

Giving back to TRIO and the community is something that is important to Phillip. He participated in the McNair alumni panels in 2014 and 2015, where he shared his experiences with current McNair students. He also served as a hero for the Real Men Real Heroes Project from 2007 to 2009.

Phillip earned a Master’s of Social Work degree from Wichita State in 2011. In fall 2015, he began the sociology doctoral program at Vanderbilt University where he received a teaching assistantship.
WSU Special Programs – USD 259

Academic Development

National GEAR UP Day
October 2, 2015

Wichita State University partnered with Wichita Public Schools to host “Together We Rise,” a conference in celebration of National GEAR UP Day. Nearly 2,000 middle school students attended the conference, which featured 90 sessions for students and parents to attend.

CAREER EXPLORATION

Over 100 students participate in the District-Wide ACT Preparation Workshop designed to prepare students for the ACT. Talent Search, WSU Counseling and Testing Center, and USD 259 collaborate each spring to host the event held at WSU.

SUMMER ENRICHMENT

USD 259 students who participate in Upward Bound Programs have the opportunity to participate in summer enrichment and college preparatory activities. Pictured above, Charlie Jenkins, a retired USD 259 teacher, helped 15 UBWP student earn 7.5 high school Government credits during the Summer 2015 Program/USD 259 Summer school session.

COLLEGE VISITS

Precollege programs at Wichita State offer students opportunities to visit colleges throughout the country. Upward Bound Wichita Prep students (pictured above) visited Temple University (PA) in summer 2015.

WSU Precollege programs sponsored 30 college campus visits in 2014-2015

ACT PREPARATION

Over 100 students participate in the District-Wide ACT Preparation Workshop designed to prepare students for the ACT. Talent Search, WSU Counseling and Testing Center, and USD 259 collaborate each spring to host the event held at WSU.
McNair and Student Support Services Alum Samanta Souriya was honored as a semi-finalist for the Teacher of the Year Award from the Kansas Department of Education in 2015. Souriya is an ESOL teacher at Jardine Middle School.

Student Support Services alum Lupe Claudio participated in the first USD 259 Grow Your Own Teacher scholarship project. This scholarship was designed to get more minority teachers in our public schools. Lupe taught kindergarten at Cloud Elementary for several years.

Brad Webster, VUB Program Specialist, taught in the Wichita Public Schools from 1998 through 2013. He taught leadership (JROTC) at Curtis, Wilbur, and Truesdell middle schools. He also taught US and World History at Metro Mid-town Alternative High School. Webster serves as a Soldier in the Kansas Army National Guard.

USD 259 instructors teach for several of the TRIO summer programs. Pictured above, North High Math Teacher Becky Marin leads a study session during the Upward Bound Math Science summer program.

The Homework Assistance Program (HAP) serves students from all TRIO/GEAR UP programs. USD 259 staff serve as tutors and mentors. These individuals work diligently with students to provide guided curriculum practices and help with homework assignments. Steve Thorton, Stucky Middle School, is pictured above assisting a student during a HAP tutoring session.
Carrie VanDusen is a sophomore at Wichita State and is a participant in the TRIO Disability Support Services Program. While in high school, she was a part of a program called Partners Exploring and Attaining Keys to Success at Independence High School in southeast Kansas. The program took her on campus visits and on one of those visits to Wichita she fell in love with the city and decided to move here.

Carrie is currently working towards a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology. She intends to pursue a doctorate in psychology at Wichita State after earning her bachelors’ degrees.

When asked about her family and academic experiences, Carrie responded with the following, “Coming from a low income family that has needed support and coming back to school has been a challenge especially keeping food on the table and a roof over our heads. Being back in school has inspired me to study harder to improve my current situation for my family.

“Insipe of my depression, the services that I am receiving here help alleviate my fears of not being capable of graduating. Without the support of TRIO Disability Support Services, it would be more difficult to balance school and home life due to the struggles I face with my two children who have special needs.”

Melissa Wright, a single mom, was working 21-30 hours a week but had a dream that hinged on continuing her education. She was determined to learn skills to find a new job to fulfill her career goals.

She initially came to the EOC Program because she wanted to earn her high school diploma. She was assisted by her assigned program education specialist in creating an education action plan that would serve as a road map. With EOC assistance, she was enrolled in Project Encore, an online high school completion program for busy adults that is sanctioned by the Kansas Board of Regents.

Melissa began her school year needing 22 credits to earn her high school diploma. As a returning student, she started the school year strong, averaging 25 hours a month online doing her school work. Her consistent work allowed her to gain enough credits to graduate in May 2015.

A high school graduate, Melissa proudly began her journey to earn a college degree. EOC staff assisted her to complete all of the forms necessary to enroll into college including an application for a $500 scholarship. Melissa is now attending Wichita Area Technical College as a participant in the Shocker Pathway Program. Today, she is pursuing a STEM career in the dentistry field.

The director and staff of the EOC Program applaud and celebrate Melissa for her hard work in making her dreams come true.
Christian Carter has remained strong. Christian’s story mirrors the stories of other foster care children across the nation that spend time in the system. He grew up in many different homes, learning something new in them all. He learned to adapt to a lot of situations. He also learned to live life and try as many things as possible. In his spare time, Christian mentors middle school students in WyldLife.

Christian has an entrepreneurial spirit and has started his own business selling products on his personal website. He has a passion for music, writing songs, and engineering. He has been to several campus visits with KKGU and is considering going to Fort Hays State University upon graduation. He also attends the weekly meetings during lunch at school to gain more knowledge to help prepare him for his future.

Christian is a shining example of how perseverance and determination can conquer heartache and obstacles. He has seen more than his fair share of both and refuses to give up. The KKGU staff are proud to call him a Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP student, and are excited to see how he will go out and change the world.

Rick Richardson spent his childhood years in and around Springfield, IL and in Hutchinson, KS. He participated in many sports activities in his high school years. In 1976, Rick joined the U.S. Navy as a boatswain mate, including helmsman on the USSS Davidson. After being honorably discharged in 1977, he returned to Kansas to stay with his family until he could decide what career path to take.

Rick has operated a successful business in the pest control field. In 1989, he relocated to the San Antonio, TX area, where he got his license and continued in the pest control business. He married and has a son and a daughter. In 2005, Rick returned to serving his country when he was contracted with Halliburton, where he worked in Iraq as a vector control agent. He was the head officer handling animal and pest control for many bases in the Iraq area.

Rick is currently a retired veteran living in Kechi, KS. He recently joined the Veterans Upward Bound program (VUB) as a participant. He is planning to begin higher education studies through Butler Community College in spring 2016. Rick’s career interests include business management.

Rick is a typical VUB participant who has served his nation, managed a family and career, and now has set high ambitions for himself to earn a college degree.
Determined to make a difference describes the attitude of Northwest High School senior Moriah Carter. She transitioned from an early start in TRIO Talent Search to pursue her journalism interests through Communication Upward Bound (CUB).

Moriah plays soccer, takes pottery classes and participates in the AVID program. Moriah has been actively involved in CUB’s residential program for the last three years. Ser experiences will benefit her in seeking a postsecondary education at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She also has been accepted to an Oklahoma Christian college and Wichita State.

Moriah received encouragement from her two brothers who participated in Upward Bound Wichita Prep (UBWP). All siblings credit their mother for strong encouragement and inspiration to excel. Moriah’s mother broke the first generation status cycle by obtaining her bachelor’s degree in business administration from Friends University.

The family also gained much wisdom from the late Charles Jenkins, who taught history and government classes. Moriah earned an “A” in her UBWP summer government class and is thankful for the study hall sessions offered by Jenkins and the program.

Mariah finds inspiration in the message taught by her mother “All things are possible through God.”

Pleasant Valley Middle School student and North Wichita GEAR UP participant, Melanie Martinez, was chosen as Star Student for her dedication at school, in her community and life endeavors. She is 13 years old and has a twin brother named Daniel. She also has two other siblings, Jesus age 18, and Kendra age 11. Melanie takes on other responsibilities, besides school, like cooking and cleaning at home to help her mother.

Melanie received a 4.0 GPA in her first nine-week period as well as participated in most of the volunteer opportunities offered. She gives up her recess time to attend lunch tutoring, resulting in all her homework completed and turned in on time. She is also involved in volleyball and boxing. She is accomplished in these areas because she steers clear of boys.

Melanie arrives at school on time, ready to begin her day. She always has the correct materials in her organized binder, as well as pays attention in class and follows directions. Usually, one can find Melanie with a smile on her face and having an outgoing and contagious personality.

Teachers, friends and family boast about Melanie’s positive attitude and giving spirit. She wants others to succeed, have goals and continue in their education. She loves to help other students understand their homework, and push them to come to school every day.
Richard Dang, an eighth grade student at Curtis Middle School, is one of the outstanding students of the South Wichita GEAR UP program.

In 2015, Richard participated in South Wichita GEAR UP summer camps where he enjoyed the Legacy Camp sponsored by The Kansas African American Museum (TKAAM). He made new friends, listened to amazing speakers, acquired new skills, and learned about different cultures. His only regret was that the camp itself was not long enough, because he felt that there was so much more he wanted to learn.

Last fall, TKAAM held its annual “Tribute to Trailblazers” banquet. This event recognizes the perseverance and achievements of outstanding pioneers who helped shape a positive culture in the community. Richard was invited to speak about his experiences with the Legacy Camp. He did a tremendous job.

Richard’s closing statement was a plea for people to avoid treating one another badly just because they are different. He silenced the crowd in amazement and brought everyone to their feet with a roaring standing ovation. But most of all, he was applauded for his bravery and genuineness.

Richard demonstrates courage, confidence and commitment to his role as a young leader on a daily basis. He is an amazing student who has already learned to overcome so many obstacles in life.

Baisha Jackson is 14 years old and in the 8th grade at Stucky Middle School. She is enrolled in honors classes which she sarcastically describes as “very exciting”. She hasn’t decided where she will attend high school, but she knows that she will go to either Heights or Northeast. Baisha says her family has always been there for her even through the tough times.

Baisha is mostly a straight A student. School has always been a big deal for her family who stressed the importance of good education. She wants to go to college and major in aerospace engineering. She believes engineering is a good field because there are not a lot of women in the field, and it is a field where one can earn a pretty decent salary.

Baisha likes the Homework Assistance Program (HAP) because it is helpful, and it makes her feel better about the future. She usually has a lot of homework because she is enrolled in honors courses. She finds HAP beneficial because she can receive help from the teachers and tutors on duty.

The HAP program has improved Baisha’s study skills and made her feel better about attending college. As a participant in HAP, she has had the opportunity to be involved in other TRIO programs. She recommends HAP to anyone who plans to go to college and wants to develop good study skills.
NATIONAL TRIO DAY AGENDA
Thursday, February 11, 2015
Wichita State University

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TOWN HALL MEETING with USD 259 SCHOOL BOARD
(Open to the public)
10.00 am to 11.30 am: Campus Activities Center Theater
LUNCH (for students only)
11.30 am to 12.15 pm: Beggs Ballroom,
Rhatigan Student Center

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NATIONAL TRIO DAY BANQUET
(by invitation only)
Beggs Ball Room, Rhatigan Student Center
5.30 pm to 6.00 pm: VIP Reception
6.00 pm: Greetings & Welcome
Proclamations: State, City & University
Acknowledgement of Special Guests
Dinner & Video Showcase
Keynote Speaker: Betty Arnold, Chair,
USD 259 School Board
Awards: Student Achievement
Felicitation: Building Bridges & Service Awards
Recognitions: Special Programs Staff
Networking & Social Time

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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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