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

Special thanks to: MyPictureman Productions LLC and Tarun Bali, student photographer
TRIO Day 2016 was a major success from beginning to end. The Town Hall Meeting was great. The students had excellent questions and were excited to ask their questions of the superintendent and school board members. The entire audience learned a great deal and went away feeling better informed.

The student achievers, school board members and superintendent gathered for a reception, held in their honor, to congratulate and convey their appreciation for all of their accomplishments. The banquet was phenomenal and was loved by the attendees. Every aspect of the banquet went exceptionally well.

The Office of Special Programs received numerous acknowledgments and thanks for a great event. President John Bardo shared the successes and impact of the TRIO Programs, Vice President Eric Sexton encouraged support for the programs, and Councilwoman LaVonta Williams shared praise for the programs and read the City’s Proclamation.

The school board and superintendent were honored to receive the Building Bridges Awards and the programs were excited to acknowledge the exemplary efforts of Michael Kinnard who has supported the programs for a number of years. School Board President Betty Arnold was the banquet speaker and was outstanding. She shared her background and educational and academic advancements and provided encouraging remarks to the students and participants. The audience held on to every word. The students from each program were recognized for their successes and accomplishments. The staff are very proud of each of them.

A big “thank you” to the staff, students, university personnel, school board and superintendent, and community for making TRIO Day 2016 a huge success and for the many people who shared how important all of the programs are to the community. Please plan on joining the programs in 2017 to celebrate National TRIO Day.

Deltha Q. Colvin
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

Special Programs Ezine Commitee Members:
(Back Row) Larry Ramos (Chair), Wilma Moore-Black, Travis Feeney, (Front Row) Alan Dsouza, PhD, & Ashley Cervantes
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Deltha Q. Colvin opened the Town Hall by welcoming the audience and thanking the school board members for their participation.

USD 259 District 3 Representative Barbara Fuller responds to a student question.

Students from several schools attended the Town Hall.

Wichita State President John Bardo addresses attendees during the banquet.

TRIO students had the opportunity to network with TRIO supporters, staff and community members prior to the banquet.

Banquet attendees posed for pictures before and after the event.
In the morning of February 11, 2016, the Office of Special Programs, along with the Town Hall Meeting committee, sponsored the event held at the Campus Activities Center Theater on the Wichita State main campus. The USD 259 Board of Education and its elected members were the featured panel speakers at the Town Hall Meeting. More than 200 students, parents, community agency partners, WSU faculty and staff filed into the theater to hear the school board members tackle a host of pressing issues.

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Deltha Q. Colvin opened the session by welcoming the audience and thanking the school board members for their participation. She also encouraged all the students to take advantage of the Town Hall meeting and become more informed about issues that affect them.

John Allison, superintendent, and Betty Arnold, school board president, headlined the panel which also included school board members Mike Rodee, Barbara Fuller, Sheril Logan, and Lynn Rogers. In recognition of all the students in attendance, Riccardo Harris, executive director of North Wichita GEAR UP, called out various schools provoking a boisterous applause from the students. Some schools represented included East, West, South, Southeast, North, Northeast Magnet, and Valley Center high schools and Mayberry Magnet, Marshall, and Pleasant Valley middle schools.

Erica Conchola, Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP and TRIO Student Support Services program participant introduced the panel. Each board member provided brief comments on their background before fielding questions from the audience. Allison told the audience that he works for the school board and that his duties include budget planning and policy-making for USD 259. The audience was also reminded that the school board members are elected officials charged with the task of operating the largest school district in the state.

The students were provided the first opportunity to ask questions of the panel. When asked why each ran for a spot on the school board, the overwhelming reason was a passion for education. Arnold said “because students and education matter.” Logan said she had a strong commitment to “give back” and not do it for the money. Fuller’s parents influenced her passion for education, while Rogers said his prior volunteering efforts for the district led to his decision to run for the school board.
The students asked very challenging questions throughout the meeting and the school board members answered each question with thoughtful responses. Some questions pertained to school funding which generated vigorous responses from the panel. When asked about the main issues that the school board is currently facing, Arnold said the schools are “having to cut a lot of critical areas” due to budget shortfalls. The budget cuts could result in larger classroom sizes and scaling back on programs like driver’s education. Logan explained that the state’s block grant plans may appear to give more funding for schools, but very little of it will be used for programming. Instead, the school board will be looking at ways to prepare students for postsecondary education by trying to retain good teachers.

One inquisitive student asked why teachers “just pass students” instead of teaching what the student needs to prepare them for college. Superintendent Allison said he hoped that passing students with the proper skills to attend colleges or enter a career is the goal for the district. Rogers, who is the longest standing school board member, indicated the district’s goal is to help students become life-long learners and that students have to assume a larger responsibility in their education that should go beyond a high school diploma. Fuller commented that the students’ attitude toward their educational goals is important for their future while Logan related that the world has changed and that the school board’s challenge is preparing students for that world.

Another key moment during the meeting was when a student asked why students don’t have a say in the board elections. President Arnold said she welcomes the opportunity to hear from students while Logan mentioned that students should get involved and learn about the candidates, then tell others what they think to influence voting. “When you turn 18, make sure you vote,” she emphasized. Rogers talked about attending a school board meeting when he was 16 and the board wanted to hear what he thought of the some of the issues at that time.

Following the Town Hall meeting, students were led by their respective program counselors to the Rhatigan Student Center for lunch and for many, a tour of the campus. The overwhelming response to the entire event was mostly positive and many students indicated that they had learned a great deal about the school board and its role. Most students had very few ideas what the school board’s function was and this activity really opened their eyes to its important purpose in USD 259. Even the students who attended from other school districts were impressed by the Town Hall meeting.

Aiysha Henagan is a high school graduate who was seeking a better job through education. She was referred to the Educational Opportunity Centers Program by HUD Housing for help with her educational plan. With the support of EOC, Henagan earned two certifications: home health aide and certified nurse aid. In November 2015, Henagan was honored by the Wichita Sedgwick County Community Action Partnership (Michelle Rucker, director) for five years of progress in the program. As a result, she was provided a new home.
In Memoriam:

“No child fails...it’s what we can do to elevate them. To show an interest...they can achieve if we push the right buttons.”
- Ted Foraker

“Education has the power to help people build successful and fulfilling lives.”
- Kevin Clark

Ted Foraker

TRIO Service
1989 - 1998

Talent Search
Director

Scholarships
The Olin Ted Foraker Scholarship was awarded at National TRIO Day 2008.

Kevin Clark

TRIO Service
1990 - 2001

Upward Bound Wichita Prep
Upward Bound Math Science
Student Support Services
Disability Services

Scholarships
The Clark family established six endowed scholarships at Wichita State University.
“Everyday is precious in the Lord’s sight, and we should be serving Him.”
- Phil Bowers

“Upward Bound is a great program. I’ve seen many young men and women go to college and become successful that maybe wouldn’t have, if not for Upward Bound.”
- Charlie Jenkins
The Beggs Ballroom, splashed in red, yellow, and orange, provided the backdrop for one of the biggest events of the year—the 2016 National TRIO Day recognition banquet. Held the evening of February 11, the annual event affords the Office of Special Programs (OSP), and all of the TRIO and GEAR UP departments under OSP, to recognize students for their accomplishments and community partners for their steadfast support. More than 250 people attended the banquet with the majority of attendees being program students and their families. University administrators, faculty and staff, congressional staffers, and community liaisons were also invited to join the celebration.

University President John Bardo, Ph.D., reverberated the huge impact that the TRIO and GEAR UP programs had on the community and said the programs have been a “shining beacon and gateway” for students to enter the university. “Where would young people be, if not for the opportunities given to them (students) through TRIO?” he asked. He received a resounding applause of approval when he announced that he would be joining the Urban League’s board of directors. The president also thanked Deltha Q. Colvin, associate vice president for Student Affairs and the staff for their work with students and congratulated the students on their recognition.

Prior to the banquet, a VIP reception was held in the Gridley Room of the Rhatigan Student Center. Honored guests included the student achievers and Building Bridges awardees. Colvin began the evening’s proceedings by welcoming the audience and talking about how proud she is of the OSP staff and the work they do to strengthen schools and the community. Her message to students was “be the best that you can possibly be.” Colvin recounted the success of the programs in producing numerous doctors, lawyers, politicians, coaches, and teachers. Her remarks were inspirational for students and gracious to the program staffs.

The accolades kept pouring in when Eric Sexton, Ph.D., vice president for Student Affairs, took to the podium and offered his congratulations to the students being honored. He related that the celebration of National TRIO Day should inspire those who are called to help students become successful, to serve as stewards for low income and first generation college students. City Council Member LaVonta Williams spoke on behalf of Mayor Kevontrez Jones is a McNair Scholar and aerospace engineering student at Wichita State. During the 2014-2015 academic year, he researched fiber architecture effects on the stress relaxation behavior of carbon fiber composites under the guidance of Suresh Raju, Ph.D., associate professor for the Department of Aerospace Engineering. Jones presented his findings at the 20th Annual Closing Symposium. He will graduate May 2016, and plans to begin a doctoral program in theoretical and applied mechanics in the fall.
Jeff Longwell and glowingly articulated how the TRIO programs are preparing Wichita’s workforce of tomorrow. Williams also read a proclamation from the Mayor recognizing February 11, 2016 as National TRIO Day.

After the Governor’s and university’s proclamations were read by Kaye Monk-Morgan, director of Upward Bound Math Science and Martha Lewis, director of Disability Support Services, the buffet dinner followed. Smooth jazz sounds by Contemp-Oh! Band, along with delicious Italian cuisine, provided a wonderful environment that was rated highly by the audience according to evaluations summarized by Alan Dsouza, Ph.D. and the evaluation committee.

The keynote address was delivered by USD 259 Board of Education President Betty Arnold. Her speech was passionate and thought-provoking as she took the audience on a historical journey from her upbringing in Arkansas to her time in Wichita. She said it was difficult for people who faced discrimination on a daily basis living in the South. But, she also related that Kansas had discriminatory laws on the books in 1874, even if those laws weren’t enforced. While a student at Wichita State, she said “a fire was ignited” to become more informed and involved in the issues that mattered to her. She

Lilia Marquez is a TRIO director’s dream student. She has made an impact on the Upward Bound Math Science program (UBMS) that will be felt for years to come. Marquez is a leader and a great role model. She has volunteered to work with new students to help with transition issues and mentored new student research groups. Marquez plans to attend Wichita State and major in aerospace engineering. Through UBMS, she has already created a relationship with the chair of aerospace engineering as well as some key staff at the National Institute for Aviation Research.
thought more about the meaning of her time in Arkansas and the treatment of African Americans during those tumultuous times. The audience was engaged as she concluded her talk about the value of a public education. “Students are accepted in public schools in spite of their background. Everyone is welcome,” she declared. Her final piece of advice was aimed directly to the students when she challenged them to “dare to be the reality.”

Educational Opportunity Centers Program Executive Director Frances Ervin led the student achievement proceedings by introducing each recipient and sharing a brief biography. As the students made their way to the stage to receive their awards, the program directors and Associate Vice President Colvin stood in solidarity with the students to congratulate and support their tremendous accomplishments. Many of the student achievers brought their families with them to the banquet to witness the award and share in the experience. Student achievers and the program that selected them include:

- **Christian Carter**, Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP
- **Moriah Carter**, Communication Upward Bound
- **Richard Dang**, South Wichita GEAR UP
- **Mark Guzman**, Upward Bound Wichita Prep
- **Aiysha Henagan**, Educational Opportunity Centers Program
- **Kevontrez Jones**, McNair Scholars Program
- **Tina Le**, Student Support Services
- **Trang Le**, Educational Talent Search
- **Lilia Marquez**, Upward Bound Math Science
- **Melanie Martinez**, North Wichita GEAR UP
- **Richard Rangel**, Veterans Upward Bound
- **Carrie VanDusen**, Disability Support Servcies

Tina Le graduated from Wichita State University in Fall 2015 with a degree in nursing and is working as a registered nurse at Via Christi. She was a Student Support Services (SSS) participant during her entire college career. Le says, “SSS helped me achieve my dreams of being the first college graduate in my family by presenting me with scholarships, use of a computer lab, access to tutoring, and monthly meetings with my SSS advisor for moral and academic support.” Last year, Le received the $2,000 Spirit AeroSystems scholarship from SSS.
Each year, OSP recognizes individuals from the community who provide invaluable support to the programs. This year, the entire USD 259 Board of Education was chosen to receive the Building Bridges Award. Vic Chavez, executive director of South Wichita GEAR UP, introduced each board member and invited each of them to receive a plaque from Colvin. The following individuals received these prestigious awards:

- **John Allison**, USD 259 Superintendent
- **Betty Arnold**, School Board President, District 1 Representative
- **Joy Eakins**, District 2 Representative
- **Barbara Fuller**, District 3 Representative
- **Jeff Davis**, District 4 Representative
- **Mike Rodee**, Vice President, District 5 Representative
- **Lynn Rogers**, District 6 Representative
- **Sheril Logan**, At Large Board Member

The evening ended with Colvin recognizing each project director and thanking the audience for making the event an evening to remember. In return, and much to her surprise, Colvin was presented with a bouquet of flowers from the OSP directors to show their appreciation for the work she does and the support she provides to all the programs. The positive responses received on the evaluations returned by the attendees reflected that the evening was a success.

Staff Sgt. Richard Rangel, a Veterans Upward Bound student, has had a momentous and diverse experience serving in the U.S. Army around the world including Iraq and Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Rangel served in multiple career positions ranging from infantry team, squad leader, vehicle commander, field support command platoon sergeant to cadre for warrior transition units. After Staff Sgt. Rangel retired, he decided to help others, especially veterans. He attends Wichita State, majoring in social work and his goal is to obtain a master’s degree specializing in post traumatic stress disorder therapy.
For many years, Michael Kinnard, president of MyPictureman Productions LLC, has made it a priority to participate in National TRIO Day as the official photographer and videographer. His role in providing a visual history of the event is critical in documenting student successes and in fostering community ties. With this in mind, Kinnard was awarded the TRIO Advocacy Award from Colvin on behalf of the entire OSP staff.

Legacy Award

Contemp-Oh! Band was formed by Hal Ray Cozart and Anibal Rivas. Both are graduates of Wichita State. Cozart is a TRIO alumnus of the Wichita State Student Support Services program. The band’s first performance was in 2010 on the Wichita State campus. Band members include: Steve SiFuentez (bass guitar), Aaron Newton (keyboard), Austin Johanning (trumpet), Luke Young (saxophone) and Cozart (drums).

TRIO Alum

USD 259 School Board President Betty Arnold served as keynote speaker.

The Beggs Ballroom, splashed in red, yellow, and orange, provided the backdrop for one of the biggest events of the year—the National TRIO Day recognition banquet.

Each program selected a student to be recognized as a student achiever.

A certificate and medallion was presented to the student achievers.
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