The partnership between TRIO and Student Affairs has been strong since the inception of the TRIO programs.

When I first got here, minority and first-generation students were hard to find. TRIO programs allow students to aspire. When we started getting TRIO programs this was a major deal for the university. Providing opportunity is the first step, the next part of the TRIO legacy is increasing aspiration.

- Dr. James Rhatigan

My perception of TRIO is that it is probably one of the most important programs that exist on college campuses. I can’t think of any better thing to do than to ensure that any individual, regardless of color, regardless of physical abilities, has the opportunity to go to college and get the support that they need to ensure their success. TRIO programs have done that and have a long legacy of doing that.

- Dr. Ron Kopita

Several TRIO and other special programs were established during Rhatigan’s administration: Upward Bound Wichita Prep, Talent Search, Student Support Services, the Office of Disability Support Services, McNair Scholars Program, and Educational Opportunity Centers.

The Division of Student Affairs has gone through many title changes over the years. Grace Wilkie Hall has been the center of intense TRIO Activity and housed the VP offices for several years.

The partnership between TRIO and Student Affairs has been strong since the inception of the TRIO programs.

From my perspective, TRIO means opportunity. It means access. We’re serving students in a record number of programs, not just at Wichita State, but across the state of Kansas. We have programs for people who have no other options. For me, the university having these programs and the long history we’ve had has provided the opportunity for people to advance and fulfill their goals and dreams.

- Dr. Wade Robinson

Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP, Veterans Upward Bound and Communication Upward Bound were established during Dr. Kopita’s administration. Dr. Kopita also played a key role in securing funding to help keep KKGU at WSU when they lost funding for one year.

North Wichita GEAR UP, South Wichita GEAR UP and nine College Access Challenge Grants were funded during Robinson’s administration.