TRIO Day 2015 was February 12, 2015. The Office of Special Programs (OSP) appreciated the participation of all attendees who participated and acknowledged the accomplishments of students and to honor those who have provided their unwavering support and contributions to the success of the programs and students. The monumental accomplishments of selected students was key.

This year’s Building Bridges honorees Arnold L. Mitchem, Ph.D., president emeritus for the Council for Opportunity in Education and Virdena Gilkey, executive assistant to the Mayor and City Council helped advance the success of the lives of individuals eligible for the programs. The planning committee appreciated the keynote address of Gilkey who kept the audience on the edge of their seats with her powerful message. Mitchem sent a video, and shared his legacy and appreciation for the recognition. Eleven student achievement honorees were recognized by the programs for their exemplary leadership and academic achievement. The programs are honored for all their commitment, exemplary support and achievement.

The programs received proclamations from the Mayor of Wichita, the honorable Carl Brewer, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, and Wichita State University President John Bardo, Ph.D. Mayor Brewer communicated the importance of participation and support in the TRIO programs to students. Vice President for Student Affairs Wade Robinson, Ph.D. stressed the importance of the programs and their role in the success of students. Robinson is a significant advocate for the Office of Special Programs.

Contemp-Oh! entertained the audience.

As the programs look at the legacy of TRIO, Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), and the Office of Disability Services (ODS); are proud of what the programs have accomplished. For example, the programs provide tutorial support for participants, financial aid and career exploration, and advising and counseling. A highly professional staff is dedicated and committed to the success and progress of participants. The staff members work seven days a week and evenings to ensure this success.

The planning committees, comprised of TRIO, GEAR UP, and ODS personnel, implemented an exciting and first class banquet. On behalf of the programs, all interested individuals are encouraged to mark their calendars for Thursday, February 11, 2016 to attend the next TRIO Day celebration. The staff members under the Office of Special Programs are the motivators and executors for the TRIO Day Program and the driving force to implement successful programs and services. They are appreciated and applauded for their efforts, dedication and commitment.

Thanks to all OSP stakeholders for their support. TRIO, GEAR UP and ODS Works! The programs look forward to their continued support and hope to see them at the program in 2016. Thanks to all of the staff members of each of the programs.

Deltha Q. Colvin,

Deltha Q. Colvin, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

“The Building Bridges Honorees and the Student Honorees were exceptional."
– Deltha Q. Colvin (OSP)