Communication Upward Bound

When it comes to loyalty to one’s family and involvement in the TRIO Communication Upward Bound program (CUB), Jessica Hardesty tops the list. A senior at South High School, Jessica has been active in CUB since her freshman year. She had much encouragement and support from two older siblings who successfully completed the CUB program. Strong supporters of CUB, the Hardesty parents have actively shared requirements about the program as well as encouraged other students to get involved.

Simply put, CUB has been instrumental in the educational and career choices made by the entire family. It’s a big “thank you” from both Deanne and Phil Hardesty when they pick up Jessica from CUB-sponsored events or Saturday enrichment workshops. “I love what all of you do for these students,” Deanne said with passion. “We appreciate you.”

A sometimes shy and soft-spoken person, Jessica sets high goals and looks forward to college. Jessica has been accepted to five colleges in Kansas, including Wichita State University, where she has lived in Fairmount Towers during CUB’s summer, residential session for several years. She wants to major in child psychology.

“The quote, ‘the key to success is hard work and determination,’ represents me because I always work my hardest to do the best I possibly can,” Jessica said. She believes that her drive to achieve goals and to keep good grades both will help her succeed in life. Part of that journey will include a message from her parents “to never give up and to always chase my dream.”