The Office of Special Programs (OSP) is looking forward to the TRIO Day Celebration on February 13, 2014. The celebration is an opportunity to showcase the successes of TRIO, GEAR UP, ODS programs and acknowledge those who have helped the programs be successful.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the legacy of Deema DeSilva, Ph.D., director of Student Support Services. DeSilva has tirelessly worked in the Student Support Services (SSS) and TRIO Programs to ensure their success and growth. DeSilva is the longest standing TRIO director and advocate for the programs. A national and international figure, DeSilva is highly respected and accomplished. It is with great pride that she has successful proposals, books, research, manuals, presentations, and numerous other documents that the university can be proud to share. The TRIO, GEAR UP and ODS family salute Deema DeSilva, Ph.D., for her accomplishments, successes, and leadership.

Wichita State University is honored that the speaker and honoree for the National TRIO Day celebration is Linda Byrd-Johnson Ph.D., senior director, Student Services Area, Office of Postsecondary Education for the United States Department of Education. Byrd-Johnson has distinguished herself with the university for over 30 years. She was the program officer for the TRIO programs at WSU early in her career. A legend in the TRIO community, WSU is excited about her visit to the city.

The TRIO, GEAR UP and ODS staffs thank the students served by the programs for their commitment and work to make their goals a success and showcase the success of the programs. Many thanks to the staffs for their commitment and dedication to a profession that has winners daily. TRIO works and the staffs and students are the reason why. To the directors of the programs: They are the power and strength of the programs administered for the success of students and adults. They are the glue that hold the programs together. They are the reason why students and staff can say “TRIO, GEAR UP, and ODS Works!”

The program staffs hope to see many people in attendance to celebrate National TRIO Day 2014. Thank You!