Tu Huyen Nguyen joined Upward Bound Wichita Prep (UBWP) when she was a freshman at East High School. Now a senior, she has maintained an impressive 4.00 grade point average throughout her high school career. Tu Huyen has taken full advantage of all the opportunities offered her through the Upward Bound program. This, combined with the fact that she is a highly motivated student with a well-formulated plan for college and beyond, makes her future outlook very bright indeed.

Tu Huyen is extremely caring and compassionate. In fact, her goal to become a dentist was spurred by an accident suffered by her younger sister, which impacted the appearance of her teeth. Tu Huyen says she intends to be her “superhero” and help restore her confidence in her smile. In addition, she has spent many hours volunteering for Inter-Faith Ministries Homeless Shelter, Botanica Gardens, Kansas Children’s Service League, Habitat for Humanity, Trees for Life, Operation Holiday and many other organizations during the UBWP Saturday sessions.

Adding to her stellar academic career, Tu Huyen exhibits strong leadership and interpersonal communication skills. She has honed these skills over the past three years through participation in National TRIO Day celebrations, the UBWP summer residential program, tutoring and homework assistance, and college campus visits. Because of her determination, work ethic, and lofty goals for herself, the UBWP staff is extremely proud to recognize Tu Huyen Nguyen as the UBWP TRIO student of the year.

Bishop Rice has been a TRIO Talent Search participant for three years. She first joined the program as a sixth grader while attending Brooks Technology and Arts Magnet Middle School.

Bishop indicated that she has been impacted by TRIO in many ways. “It (the program) has been very helpful with improvement in my classes such as math and science.” During the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program held on the Wichita State campus, Bishop said she acquired new skills that provided her information and knowledge that is useful to her throughout the academic school year. Bishop said she enjoys being in TRIO because of the “fun and exciting things during the summer program, like going on the field trips, the talent show, and what is taught in classes, especially math.”

Bishop’s involvement doesn’t stop with TRIO. Bishop has been on the honor roll all three years in middle school, received student of the month for character, former sixth grade leadership participant, is in advanced art, honors choir and performs in musicals at Brooks.

During her spare time, Bishop enjoys drawing and art, singing, acting, playing with her two dogs – Jackie and Skipper, and hanging out with friends. Her favorite movie is the Hunger Games and takes pleasure in reading novels from Veronica Roth, author of Divergent. Bishop adores music artist Taylor Swift and loves listening to pop music. Bishop plans to pursue a career as a marine biologist but is uncertain as to what college she would like to attend.