TRIO Day was a major success. The students, staff, and university and community persons all enjoyed the experience. The Town Hall Meeting, which was hosted for the first time was exceptional. The auditorium was full and the students asked great questions. Interestingly, the majority of the questions were asked by male participants and that was enjoyed by Linda Byrd-Johnson, PhD, senior director, Student Services Area, Office of Postsecondary Education. Byrd-Johnson answered questions for two hours during the Town Hall Meeting and gave an inspiring and compassionate response to each question. A special thank you to Mayor Carl Brewer and Councilwoman Lavonta Williams for their support. Byrd-Johnson was pleased and appreciated the event and interest.

A special thank you to the distinguished women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. who supported Byrd-Johnson. She is a member of the sorority and the members supported her in their red clothing.

A reception for all awardees was exciting and attended by students and their families, Byrd-Johnson and university and community personnel. Persons were excited about meeting Byrd-Johnson and taking photos. The banquet was an inspiration to everyone in attendance. Vice President Wade Robinson welcomed the participants and gave opening remarks and let everyone know that President John Bardo appreciated their interest in WSU and sent his regards. He shared how happy he was for the WSU women’s basketball team’s 19-0 schedule along with that of the men, 26-0 and motivating the city of Wichita and the state of Kansas. Mayor Brewer provided a proclamation declaring February 13, 2014 as National TRIO Day by the City of Wichita. He also presented Byrd-Johnson a medallion of the City of Wichita which is a high honor.

Byrd-Johnson’s topic for the banquet was “TRIO--Fifty Years of Providing Hope and Opportunity.” She directed her comments to the students, inspiring them and was thought provoking. She let students know how important they are to the success of the programs and the future. The students were encouraged to pursue their dreams of a college education and take advantage of the opportunities afforded them.

TRIO Day concluded with staff meeting with Byrd-Johnson and sharing their appreciation for her attendance. The event was exceptional. TRIO Works! The staff hopes people are looking next years program. Thanks to the directors and all of the staff and students who worked to ensure TRIO Day 2014 was a major success.

Ezine Committee
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