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 questions. 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 year’s 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

Larry Ramos.........................Editor/Chair
Wilma Moore-Black .................Editor
Alan Dsouza.........................Logistics
Ashley Cervantes..........Multimedia Coordinator
Travis Feeney.......................Production

Travis Feeney, Ashley Cervantes, Larry Ramos, Alan Dsouza, Wilma Moore-Black
Answering questions from students across Kansas became a prime mission for a top U.S. Department of Education (DOE) leader known as a "TRIO legend." Linda Byrd-Johnson, Ph.D. was an inspiring messenger at the first town hall meeting held in conjunction with the 2014 National TRIO Day at Wichita State University.

Byrd-Johnson spoke before more than 200 people who attended the 10:30 am Feb. 13 event at the Wichita State Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex. Employed by the DOE for nearly 36 years in various capacities, Byrd-Johnson was solely interested in hearing from students and "that I don't disappoint" them by the presentation.

Her appearance was engineered by Deltha Q. Colvin, associate vice president for Campus Life and University Relations, who described Byrd-Johnson as an honoree, who has distinguished herself with the university for more than 30 years. . . . a legend in the TRIO community."

Byrd-Johnson currently serves as the senior director, Student Service Area, Office of Postsecondary Education, where she is responsible for directing, planning and managing the Federal TRIO Programs, the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS), GEAR UP, College Access Challenge Grant, Jacob Javits, and the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) programs.

The hallmark of TRIO/GEAR UP and Disability Services office at Wichita State University is the educational opportunities, such as Byrd-Johnson’s visit, offered to everyone who comes in contact with them. Wade Robinson, vice president of Campus Life and University Relations, expressed his strong support for the mission of these programs, and Corinne Nilsen, the director of the state-wide Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP program anchored the meeting.

It is to Byrd-Johnson’s credit that she readily broke the ice with the students through her sense of humor, and a keen ear to their concerns and questions. She never let go the focus on students and reiterated her position and function as an amicable, but qualified spokesperson.

Questions asked spanned an entire spectrum from the professional one’s such as “what is the nature of your job,” to the personal ones such as “what do you do in your free time.” And as Byrd-Johnson had promised, she answered every ques-

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The TRIO Legacy

NATIONAL TRIO DAY
TOWN HALL MEETING

tion, and if she did not know the answer to a particular question, she jokingly said “I will make it up.” The organizers were glad that there were no questions that would put that skill of Bryd-Johnson to use.

Byrd-Johnson’s answers were crisp, focused, but detailed. She used a language that the audience could understand. For instance, when asked about the nature of her job, she described it as conducting competitions for grants, and helping the organizations to implement the services that the organizations had planned to implement. Technical questions such as the effect of sequestration, funding issues, and the impact of TRIO programs such as the Upward Bound programs, were answered with a deft balance of facts and a non-political approach. She did indicate that she wanted “to retire on my own terms,” and the town hall meeting did prove her resolve.

One of the approaches that helped Byrd-Johnson to connect with the audience is by frequently challenging them to think and process their thoughts. For instance, when asked a question to explain the nature of Talent Search program, Byrd-Johnson actually made the student realize the difference between more intense programs such as classic Upward Bound and the “light-touch” Talent Search program.

Byrd-Johnson’s answers revealed to the students that she shared with them similar stories of a humble beginning with her “baby-sitting days” to a focus on education and completing a Ph.D. even when working a full-time job. True to the nature of TRIO/GEAR UP programs, she upheld the notion that change and inspiration flows upward from those whom we serve. She claimed the students whom the programs serve as her source of inspiration, and challenged the audience to be good role models.

In a funny interaction with a student, after some initial play on words, Byrd-Johnson asked the student: “Do I have a friend now?”

TRIO student Juwan Sanders asks a question during the Town Hall Meeting.

National TRIO Day 2014 Town Hall Meeting Evaluation

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Town Hall effectively organized  Sufficient time for questions  Town Hall highlighted TRIO impact  Town Hall added value to understanding of TRIO  Town Hall met my expectations

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National TRIO Day Banquet Draws Community and University Together

Nearly 200 invited guests of the Office of Special Programs (TRIO, GEAR UP, and Office of Disability Services) came to the WSU Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex on the campus of Wichita State University on the evening of February 13, 2014 to show their support of the programs. Included on the guest list was the Honorable Carl Brewer, Mayor of the city of Wichita who read a proclamation declaring the date as National TRIO Day. The Mayor also presented honored guest and keynote speaker Linda Byrd-Johnson, Ph.D. with the Medallion to the City.

A VIP reception was held prior to the banquet and included many dignitaries from local, state, and federal government. Some of those in attendance included Vice President for Academic Affairs Anthony Vizzini, Ph.D., Vice President for Campus Life and University Relations Wade Robinson, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Fine Arts Rodney Miller, Ph.D., Career Services Director Jill Pletcher, Executive Director of Secondary Schools for Wichita Public Schools Lori Doyle, Associate Vice President and Director of the Rhatigan Student Center Jim Herrman, Professor of Psychology Rhonda Lewis, Ph.D., State Agriculture Representative for Senator Pat Roberts Office Mel Thompson, Constituent Services Representative for Senator Jerry Moran’s Office Joseph Mayans, and Byrd-Johnson representing the United State Department of Education. Many of the student honorees were in attendance as well as the Special Programs office directors.

Planning an event like National TRIO Day requires a lot of time and energy by a number of people. The vision is that of Associate Vice President for Campus Life and University Relations Deltha Q. Colvin and the details are worked out among all the program directors under her supervision (Richard Armstrong, Ph.D., Communication Upward Bound; Grady Landrum, Office of Disability Services (ODS); Martha Lewis, Disability Support Services; Frances (Continued on page 5))

Student Corner: Vy Lam

A senior at West High School, Vy has taken the most rigorous curriculum available at her high school, graduating in May with dual credentials in both the Health Sciences and Engineering Academies.

Serious about her desire to become a neurosurgeon, Vy has volunteered at a local hospital since she was in middle school. She enjoys the helper role and looks for opportunities to make others smile.
Ervin, Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC); Corinne Nilsen, Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP (KKGU); LaWanda Holt-Fields, McNair Scholars Program; Deema de Silva, Ph.D., Student Support Services; Larry Ramos, Talent Search; Kaye Monk-Morgan, Upward Bound Math-Science; Rhonda Hicks, Upward Bound/Wichita Prep; Shukura Bakari-Cozart, Veterans Upward Bound.

Also on the planning team include Alan Dsouza, Ph.D., policy analyst director, Special Programs and Hercilia Thompson, administrative officer, Special Programs.

Committees and subcommittees were formed and chaired by the program directors to arrange for the decorations, food, awards, entertainment, publicity, and other details. The committees are comprised of TRIO/ODS/KKGU staff and affords individuals to share their talents and to work with staff from other programs. Prior to the banquet, several staff members where asked “what does National TRIO Day mean to you?” A wide range of responses was received. Brad Webster of Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) stated that “TRIO Day is all about opportunity.” While his comment was succinct it was also poignant. The event is an opportunity for the community to learn about the great work that is being done at WSU but it is also an opportunity for the programs to let the community know how grateful they are for all its support. Stacia Lyday, also of VUB, commented that “TRIO Day is a celebration of the students that we help” while Vic Chavez of EOC said National TRIO Day is an opportunity “to recognize the amazing programs and services that are available across the country.”

Whatever significance National TRIO Day holds for people on an individual basis, there is no doubting the passion and value that exists for the people

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National TRIO Day Legacy

Life Time of Success

Blueprint for a Lifetime of Growth

on the Home That was used for many WSEP TRIO Day Legacy monts builds

Admissions Support

attended and spoke at TRIO Day celebrations and University Relations Ron Kopera, Ph.D and former Vice President for Campus Life former WSEP President Donald Baugh, Ph.D have a long history of administrative support

Special Programs at Wichita State University
who either work in the programs or those who are served by the programs.

One of the highlights of the evening was recognizing student achievers selected from each program. These students were selected based on their level of involvement with their current program, their longevity with the program(s), and their academic and/or personal achievements. Eleven student achievers were honored. These individuals are impressive and deserved this recognition.

Frances Ervin, director of Educational Opportunity Centers introduced each student achiever. The recognition was important to the students and many were quite humbled that TRIO would even give them an award. Bishop Rice, a middle school student in the Talent Search program said “Receiving this award means a whole bunch to me…I’m just really happy!” The following are abbreviated comments provided by Ervin during this important portion of the banquet.

Communication Upward Bound – De'Andra Hughes, a junior at Southeast High School, is a regular participant of the Homework Assistance Program and juggles her schedule to address her love for art and keeping good grades.

Office of Disability Services – Jon Brooks embraced his chance to fulfill his dream of earning an engineering degree at WSU with supportive help and assistance from Disability Support Services at Cowley Community College and at WSU.

Disability Support Services – Danielle Bryant is planning to graduate in spring 2014 with a general studies degree with a concentration in chemistry and then go on to attain a Ph.D.
NATIONAL TRIO DAY
BANQUET

Educational Opportunity Centers Program -
Emma Chilton earned a social work degree from WSU and participates in civic activities such as feeding the homeless, signing up families for Operation Holiday and volunteering at the local health department.

Kansas Kids@GEAR UP -
Teresa Coons is a sophomore at Wichita North High School and has been in Kansas Kids@GEAR UP since 2010. After high school, she hopes to attend college and study science.

McNair Scholars Program -
Francesca Chavira is a senior at WSU majoring in criminal justice. She is conducting scholarly research and is very proud that she has been able to complete her bachelor’s degree this spring and further her education as an example to her three boys.

Talent Search – Bishop Rice is an eighth grader at Brooks Technology and Arts Magnet Middle School. She has been a TRIO Talent Search participant for three years and plans to pursue a career as a marine biologist.

Student Support Services –
Shelby Harris will graduate with a degree in nursing from WSU this spring and plans on joining the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Peace Corps to serve people in underdeveloped countries. Shelby says that with the help of Student Support Services and TRIO, her dreams of being a nurse have come true.

Student Corner: Shelby Harris

Shelby is currently finishing her last semester as a nursing student with a minor in aging studies. After graduation, she is going to stay in the Wichita area for a couple of years. Thereafter, she plans on joining the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Peace Corps to serve people in underdeveloped countries. Shelby says that with the help of Student Support Services and TRIO, her dreams of being a nurse have come true.

National TRIO Day 2014 Banquet Evaluation

(Continued on page 10)
The TRIO Legacy

NATIONAL TRIO DAY BANQUET

Upward Bound Wichita Prep –
Tu Huyen Nguyen joined Upward Bound Wichita Prep as a freshman at East High School. Now a senior, she has maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average throughout her high school career. Her career goal is become a dentist.

Veterans Upward Bound –
Logan Cockrum joined Veterans Upward Bound after serving four year in the U.S. Marine Corps. Logan is enrolled as a pre-med student at WSU. He plans to attend chiropractic college.

The services that the programs provide to students don’t just seem to focus on one particular area for students. On paper it appears that programs provide a lot of assistance to help bolster students’ academic skills. However, Cockrum said that Veterans Upward Bound really helped him to make the transition from active duty to fulltime college student. Upward Bound Math-Science student Gabrielle Owens said “Upward Bound Math-Science has taught me a lot about dedication and perseverance...to never give up.” Sergio Ziad, another Upward Bound Math-Science student said the program wasn’t just another program—it was “family” to him.

Byrd-Johnson served as the evening’s keynote speaker and received a special legacy award from Vice President Wade Robinson for her significant contributions to TRIO. Later, she was given the Building Bridges award given to individuals who provide exemplary support to the WSU special programs. She tailored her remarks for the students in the audience and gave a stirring and motivational message to them. While student oriented, her talk hit home with many people in the audience.

Byrd-Johnson spoke of dedication and commitment and the importance of doing their best. Near the end of her speech, she had all the students stand up and promise to work hard to achieve their dreams. Associate Vice President Colvin said Byrd-Johnson made sure that her speech conveyed how important the students are and how important it is for the students to work toward hav-

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The TRIO Legacy

NATIONAL TRIO DAY BANQUET

Shukura Bakari-Cozart said Byrd-Johnson “really connected with the audience… especially the students.” Riccardo Harris of Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP said Byrd-Johnson “challenged the kids to be great.” The overwhelming majority of comments received following the event were positive, ensuring that the planning for this event was well-conceived and carried out.

Deema de Silva, Ph.D., director of Student Support Services was given a legacy award by Colvin for her years of dedication and unique contributions. All in all, the evening was a splendid success and left many in the audience with a deep sense of pride and appreciation.

Deema de Silva (center) receives the legacy award. Also pictured are Wilma Moore-Black, Larry Ramos, Ms. Colvin, Shakura Bakari-Cozart, and Wade Robinson

Student Corner: Francesca Chavira

Francesca Chavira is a senior at Wichita State University majoring in criminal justice who really enjoys schools and taking care of her family. She is conducting scholarly research with Michael Birzer, Ph.D., chair of the School of Community Affairs. Chavira plans to attend WSU and further her education in the master’s program of criminal justice.

She is also the mother of three boys, who are very active, loving and extremely bright. They all do very well in school.
National TRIO Day Proclamations

WSU TRIO Programs Receive Proclamations from Local and State Officials

In addition to Mayor Carl Brewer reading a proclamation from the City of Wichita declaring February 13, 2014 as National TRIO Day, two more very important proclamations were read and presented to Associate Vice President of Campus Life Deltha Q. Colvin during the banquet ceremony. One from Wichita State University (WSU) President John Bardo, Ph.D. and the other from the Governor Sam Brownback acknowledging the importance of the TRIO programs and declaring the day as National TRIO Day.

In the 1986 Congressional resolution, National TRIO Day is meant to call the nation’s "attention on the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults aspiring to improve their lives, to the necessary investment if they are to become contributing citizens of the country, and to the talent which will be wasted if that investment is not made."

Generally, National TRIO Day is held on February 22 of each year, but events occur over the course of several weeks commemorating National TRIO Day. In addition, National TRIO Day has been proclaimed as a National Day of Service for programs to perform some sort of community service as a way to give back to and to say “thanks” to the community for their support.

Kaye Monk-Morgan, director of WSU’s Upward Bound Math Science Regional Center, read President Bardo’s proclamation while Martha Lewis, director of WSU’s Disability Support Services, read Governor Brownback’s proclamation.