



**Jalia Lane** is a sophomore at Wichita West High School. She is one of nine siblings. Jalia relays that while her family is considered large, they are all very close and supportive of one another. She is very grateful for their support in encouraging her to do, and be, the very best.

She admits that middle school in comparison to high school was a lot easier for her. She also confesses that she has to focus on time management and academics more and is challenged as she matriculates in honors courses at her high school. She enjoys cheerleading. However, she prioritizes her cheering responsibilities with her classes. Jalia states, "I have to prepare, organize my time around studying, focusing on each subject, homework and preparing for tests. It has been an adjustment, but I love to work hard and GEAR UP has been a blessing to me and my family as well as my classmates."

Jalia is an active participant in GEAR UP tutoring before, during and after school. She relays that engaging in campus visits has eliminated fears of attending college. Campus visits have given her career exploration opportunities that she will eventually pursue upon graduation from high school. In all, Jalia is excited with all of the incentives GEAR UP provides. In her words, she continues to challenge herself to grow and intends to take advantage of every opportunity.



**David Schlesinger** is a sophomore at Southeast High School. He has been an active participant in the South Wichita GEAR UP program for two years. His career goal is to become a general surgeon.

David is a straight "A" student, soft-spoken, and demonstrates great passion to help people. His hobbies include reading, swimming, hanging out with friends, and writing. He is involved in student government and peer mentoring. In keeping with his career goal, David volunteers for blood drives at school and for Via Christi hospital.

He launched a new club at school called Future Doctors of Southeast (FDSE) to bring students together who have a common interest of pursuing careers in the medical field. As FDSE president, David hopes to connect with local medical professionals and invite them to be guest speakers to inspire students, improve their academic goals, and create a purposeful path to their medical career.

David also came up with a slogan for FDSE - "Passionate About Medicine...Compassionate About People!" He feels that this summarizes his calling in life.

David considers himself a regular student, whose favorite subject is science. One day, he hopes to be a great doctor who will save many lives in the community.