

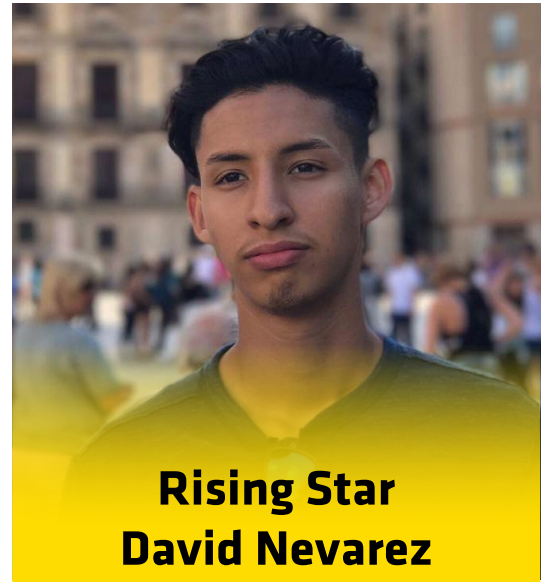


**Outstanding Alum
Violet Gomes**

Violet Gomes is the Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) alumnus of the year because of her diligence and example. Violet was admitted into UBMS in 1996 as a high school sophomore and participated until her graduation in 1999. Upon her arrival at the summer program she announced that she was “Violet, like the flower, not the color” and she immediately gained credibility with her peers and the staff as a young woman with a voice and plan. This powerhouse of a student from Iowa took the opportunities provided by TRIO and changed her life. Violet matriculated to Wichita State where she completed her bachelor’s degree in nursing. During her time at WSU, she served as a staff assistant for UBMS for nearly 10 years.

Since leaving UBMS, Violet has worked as a nurse specializing in medical telemetry, a clinical nurse in the pulmonary and cardiac unit, and is currently using her earned master’s degree as clinical nurse manager at the Leavenworth County Health Department where she oversees clinical staff, mediates public health records and communicates with state entities.

Violet will complete a doctorate as a family nurse practitioner in May of 2020, through Fort Hays State University. While Violet readily attributes her academic success to her TRIO participation, she also met her husband of 18 years, Barry Gomes, during her time at Wichita State. Together they live in Kansas City with their three children.



**Rising Star
David Nevarez**

David Nevarez is a four-year Upward Bound Math Science Center participant. He is a junior at Sumner Academy, an International Baccalaureate student, and a member of the University of Kansas Talent Search Program.

David is an avid soccer player and enjoys membership on the varsity team. His love of soccer is not just based on the physicality of the sport, but also the competitiveness and comradery. All three descriptors define David on the field and in the classroom.

The oldest son of immigrant parents, David lives with his grandparents and takes full advantage of their wisdom and culture. He has also worked hard to build a reputation as a leader and team member. Last fall, David chartered a TRIO student organization at his high school that helps students prepare for college admission exams, offers peer tutoring and mobilizes students to fight for TRIO programs.

David aspires to be an engineer. His gifts in science, engineering and math will continue to serve him well. He also dreams of global travel. He recently had the opportunity to travel to Spain with a group from his high school. He has already planned a study abroad component to enhance his college career.

It is for these reasons and so many more that the Upward Bound Math Science staff decided to profile David Nevarez in celebration of TRIO Day 2018.