

Office of

Special Programs



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The Office of Special Programs staff are preparing for TRIO/GEAR UP Day to be held February 21, 2019. The departments are in the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement at Wichita State University. Each of the programs provide quality services to students and adults. TRIO and GEAR UP will honor former participants from each program. These individuals have earned a four-year degree and are successful in their chosen careers. This year, the programs will proudly honor a family who has had a significant number of their children to participate and benefit from the TRIO programs at WSU.

TRIO and GEAR UP programs are federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. Wichita State is very fortunate to host the Upward Bound Empowerment Program, Upward Bound Wichita Prep, Upward Bound Math Science, Veterans Upward Bound, and Communication Upward Bound.

In addition, TRIO Talent Search, Educational Opportunity Centers, Student Support Services, Disability Support Services, Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, and Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP are hosted by WSU.

GEAR UP is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP provides seven-year grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. The grants begin in middle school and ends the freshman year of college. State grants provide college scholarships to Kansas students and include matching funds that must include early intervention and scholarship components. Partnership grants also have a matching funds requirement, increase college attendance, and raise the expectations of low-income students.

The newest program, called the Haysville GEAR UP program, was funded on October 1, 2018. It is

designed to expand the college-going culture in the Haysville school district. The project follows a cohort, meaning that services are provided to all students in the participating grade level. The grant provides college access services and activities to cohort students beginning in the sixth and seventh grades. Services continue through the first year of postsecondary education. Mentoring, tutoring, college visits, and financial aid counseling are provided to a minimum of 750 students each year.

This issue profiles the TRIO programs, Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP and the newly funded Haysville GEAR UP program. The magazine also shares comments from directors with the Office of Special Programs regarding their past, current, and future involvements with the programs.

A strong sense of pride and admiration is felt for the hard work that the staff have devoted in helping students successfully complete high school and college. These individuals provide quality services and activities, find resources, and address the academic issues and concerns facing students. Enjoy this publication and be marveled with the work of the TRIO and GEAR UP programs.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deltha Q. Colvin".

- Deltha Q. Colvin
Associate Vice President
for Nontraditional Students