



Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP



Back Row: S. Johnston, R. Schwasinger, J. Fryer, R. Rose, L. Woods, S. Hill, D. Q. Colvin, L. Berg, C. Bryant, S. Andrews, R. Rhoades, J. Gonzales; **Middle Row:** M. Seaman, C. Crist, S. Morales, R. Houston, T. Shorte, D. Koenigsdorf, K. Bennett, S. Hammond; **Front Row:** Y. Tsegaw, T. Shepherd, A. McCalmont, B. Randall, Corinne Nilsen (director), D. Carbajal, B. Armstrong; **Not Pictured:** C. Windham, B. Kae, V. Dsouza, M. Knight, C. Reese, C. Flores-Stamps, S. Keys, E. Esen, L. Morgan, B. Robinson, A. Knight

In August 2015, Wichita State University was awarded a seven-year statewide GEAR UP grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP (KKGU) serves students in foster care and state custody.

Students in grades seventh through their first year in college can be served by the KKGU program. KKGU assists this target population to graduate from high school and prepare for postsecondary education. Six service regions provide academic support and enrichment programs.

KKGU goals include: academically supporting students through in-school, after-school, weekend programming and a summer program. Activities with students include: college and career exploration, college tours, tutoring,

mentoring, ACT prep workshops, STEM/STEAM activities, math academy, cultural events, community service, FAFSA assistance and various financial literacy activities. These program activities are designed to educate both KKGU students and their families on the requirements for postsecondary programs. The KKGU summer programs help students choose careers and explore the educational requirements of those careers. Some summer activities include: overnight leadership camps, campus visits and weekly themed programming.

KKGU also awards financial need-based scholarships to students who participated in the KKGU program. Scholarships are used as incentives to improve academic performance, high school graduation rates and efforts towards setting career goals.

2017-2018 Highlights

- 2,500 students received program services
- 67% of high school seniors received a high school diploma or its equivalent
- 232 high school graduates enrolled in colleges/universities
- \$907,675 in need-based college scholarships were awarded to students

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