

Issue 1, December 2018



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

# Special Programs

M A G A Z I N E

TRIO & GEAR UP PROGRAMS

# HONORING OUR OWN

# 2019



**A BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS**





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Associate Vice President  
for Nontraditional Students

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**Honoring Our Own**

# Office of

# Special Programs



Hercillia Thompson, Deltha Q. Colvin (AVP), Alan Dsouza, PhD

**T**he 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

# Communication Upward Bound



Catherine Lawless, Carla Williams, Richard Armstrong, PhD (director)

## 2017-2018 Highlights

- 90% of seniors graduated from high school
- 65% of graduates enrolled in postsecondary education
- 75% of CUB students earned GPA of 3.0 and higher
- 96% of CUB students participated in the summer program

**F**or 10 years, WSU's Communication Upward Bound (CUB) has afforded an extraordinary opportunity to hundreds of area high school students in their pursuit of academic excellence while preparing for postsecondary education.

For students who express an interest in the field of communication, along with providing core services in academic tutoring and advising, CUB, in partnership with WSU's Elliott School of Communication has given students a front seat to the myriad of careers in communication that are social, mobile, visual and global.

Target high schools include North, Northwest, South, Southeast, East, West and Heights. A four-year plan is created for each student. Beginning in the freshmen year, students are informed of

high school courses required by colleges, encouraged to manage each year, and be aware of courses needed each semester in preparation for graduation and college.

Core program services include: ACT/SAT prep, tutoring, financial literacy and advising, campus visits, and opportunities to enhance non-cognitive skills. During the academic year, students participate in monthly Saturday workshops. In the summer, students with a cumulative GPA of 2.5, participate in a four-week program where students attend daily classes in math, science, English/literature, foreign language, music appreciation, and master classes with guest speakers from various careers. The summer program concludes with an awards ceremony.

Contact: (316) 978-6731  
[wichita.edu/cub](http://wichita.edu/cub)

# Disability Support Services

# DSS



Kayleen Hallberg, Kegan Clark, Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd (director), Mercedes Lubbers-Payne

**T**RIO Disability Support Services (DSS) at Wichita State has been in existence since 2001. The goal of the program is to increase college retention and graduation rates for students with learning, physical and psychological disabilities. DSS is one of the first TRIO programs designed specifically for students with disabilities in the state and is currently one of only 56 programs of its kind across the nation.

Program services include academic advising with course selection and degree planning, personal counseling, individualized tutoring, career exploration, study and life skills workshops, financial aid advice, grant aid and scholarships, economic literacy and instruction, computer lab usage, graduate school information and selection, textbook and calculator loan

program, campus and community involvement.

The staff informs faculty, staff, students and community members on program services and educates constituents on effectively assisting students with disabilities.

Program students utilize the adaptive computer lab equipment and tutors to assist them with undergraduate coursework. Students also checkout instructional videos from the program's study skills library.

The annual student recognition ceremony celebrates and acknowledges the achievements of program students, tutors, graduates and scholarship recipients. Support from WSU administrators, faculty, staff, and community leaders are also highlighted.

## 2017-2018 Highlights

- 13 bachelor degree recipients
- 28 students on the Dean's Honor Roll
- 84% persistence rate
- 97% met academic performance levels required to stay in good academic standing
- 43 students received 943 hours of tutoring for courses totaling 294 credit hours
- Awarded \$13,798 in grant aid, Educational Opportunity Fund, and the Phillip Bowers scholarships

Contact: (316) 978-5949  
wichita.edu/dss

# Educational Opportunity Centers Program



Sheilja Bhatt, Nishad Patwary, Frances Ervin (director), Staysha Work-Fields, Jed Shepherd, Corinthian Kelly, Huy Nguyen, Felicia Rocha

## 2017-2018 Highlights

- Provided services to 1,000 adult learners
- Provided free access to Student Lingo (online academic success software)
- Created Education Action Plans for adult learners

**T**he Educational Opportunity Centers Program (EOC), hosted by Wichita State, serves low-income and potential first-generation college students and other eligible adults living in the Wichita metropolitan area. The target area has a high concentration of low-income and non-baccalaureate degreed people. Specific areas to be served are the city of Wichita and Sedgwick County.

The mission of EOC is to provide services for adults desiring to pursue their education beyond high school. The program’s goal is to increase the number of adults in the target area who enroll in colleges and universities. EOC seeks to inform the community about educational opportunities that fosters the ability of adults to enter the workforce as educated personnel.

EOC pursues its mission by utilizing a professional staff who are committed to the idea of educational access for persons who are first generation, limited income, under employed, veterans and/or disabled. In an effort to connect adults to education, the staff conducts outreach at DCF, Atwater, Evergreen, and Colvin neighborhood centers.

EOC is located at the WSU Hughes Metropolitan Complex with administrative offices at Brennan Hall. Staff work cooperatively with the Kansas Board of Regents Get AHEAD Campaign, the United Way of The Plains Emergency Assistance Network, and the statewide 2-1-1 Information and Referral System.

Contact: (316) 978-7800  
wichita.edu/eoc



# 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

Contact: (316) 978-7810  
wichita.edu/gearup



# McNair Scholars Program



**LaWanda Holt-Fields (director), Ashley Cervantes, Neshia Greene**

## 2017-2018 Highlights

- 42 alumni are currently enrolled in a master's program
- 13 alumni are currently enrolled in doctoral programs
- 131 students have received a master's degree since 1995
- 24 alumni graduated with doctoral degrees since 1995
- More than 200 students presented at local, regional, and/or national conferences
- More than 200 students published works in undergraduate journals

**T**he McNair Scholars Program is federally funded and designed to provide research and scholarly activities that promote the acquisition of a doctoral degree for first generation, low-income and underrepresented college students. The program began in 1989 and is named after Ronald E. McNair, PhD to increase the number of minorities pursuing teaching and administrative careers in higher education. While working on laser physics at the Hughes Research Laboratory, McNair was accepted into the NASA astronaut program and was the second African-American to fly in space. During McNair's second mission, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 90 seconds into its flight, killing all seven crewmembers.

In 1995, Wichita State received funding from the U.S. Department of Education to begin the McNair Scholars Program. The program provides services to ensure that participants graduate with bachelor's degrees and enter graduate programs that lead to doctoral degrees. The program serves 28 students each year.

### Core Program Services

- Writing skills development and tutoring
- Research methods course
- Faculty-led seminars, graduate preparation seminars and research assembly meetings
- Personalized mentoring from faculty
- GRE preparation
- Graduate school campus visits

Contact: (316) 978-3139  
[wichita.edu/mcnair](http://wichita.edu/mcnair)

# Honoring Our Own:



**Rick Armstrong, PhD**

Communication  
Upward Bound

My most satisfying experience as director of Communication Upward Bound is watching student participants with very little self-confidence catch fire and realize that continuing their education beyond high school can help insure their futures.



**Shukura Bakari-Cozart**

Veterans Upward Bound

The TRIO/GEAR UP programs provide academic support for individuals who do not have those supports in their lives. This becomes crucial in terms of entering, staying and graduating from postsecondary education institutions to become productive members of the workforce.

As TRIO alumna, I understand the many struggles students face. I also understand the business of TRIO/GEAR UP as a director. As I make programmatic decisions, I take into account those students' struggles.



**Frances Ervin**

Educational Opportunity  
Centers Program

TRIO/GEAR UP programs expand access to education, jobs and careers to build lifelong financial security for adults, youth and their families.

My most satisfying experience as a director has been collaborating with other programs in Wichita/Sedgwick County that serve the same population as EOC Program.



**Rhonda Hicks**

Upward Bound Wichita  
Prep and Upward Bound  
Empowerment

The TRIO/GEAR UP programs serve as a platform for transformational work that affects the students, their families and future generations. We transform students from what they are into who they desire to be, *college graduates*. This is the main reason I work in the TRIO/GEAR UP programs.



**LaWanda Holt-Fields**

McNair Scholars Program

The greatest benefit to students who participate in TRIO programs is the emotional support that they receive from staff and other participants. This reinforces that they are not alone and that there is someone cheering for their success.

I LOVE my job. Watching and assisting students as they grow and develop into the people that they were meant to be is fulfilling and rewarding.

# TRIO/GEAR UP Program Directors



**Kennedy Musamali, EDD**  
Student Support Services

The most satisfying experience being a director is seeing the growth of students and the commitment of my staff to help them succeed.

Students I worked with from my days with Upward Bound are lawyers, doctors, teachers, and entrepreneurs. It is an incredible feeling knowing how far they came and how much they overcame. They inspire me daily and remind me that the work I do is important.



**Corinne Nilsen**  
Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP

My most satisfying experience as a director has been increasing the number of students in foster care that graduated from high school and went to college.

Empowering students to advocate for themselves and their education is the greatest benefit TRIO/GEAR UP provides.



**Larry Ramos**  
Talent Search

It's imperative that the programs continue because there is a real need to assist low-income and first-generation students. The future of the country depends on having an educated workforce.

I enjoy the comradery I share with my fellow TRIO/GEAR UP directors. I don't know if any of us aspired to direct a program, but we all share that same desire to open doors for low income and underrepresented students.



**Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd**

Disability Support Services

TRIO/GEAR UP programs provide crucial resources, opportunities for personal and professional growth and a sense of community.

My most satisfying experience as a director is to see my students walk across the stage. It is the most priceless experience to see the end of their academic journey. It is a long haul, but it is all worth it in the end.



**Derrick Veasey**  
Upward Bound  
Math Science

I enjoy working in the TRIO program because you get to see students' lives change and watch them grow as strong confident young adults. Planting the seeds at the beginning of a student's life is the best thing to see them blossom before your eyes.

# Student Support Services



Laurie Solberg, Kennedy Musamali, EdD (director), Pooja Sharma, Nelson Ross, Charity Lowe

**T**he TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) Program at Wichita State University (WSU) is funded by the U.S. Department of Education to serve college students from first-generation and limited income backgrounds as well as students with disabilities.

The program provides free academic support services to help students successfully persist and graduate from WSU with a bachelor's degree. Services provided by SSS include individualized tutoring, academic success skills development, assistance with FAFSA submission, academic advisement and counseling, scholarships, career exploration, and graduate school advising.

Program staff include a director, assistant director, database specialist, advisor, administrative assistant, student assistants, and tutors. SSS has provided free academic support services to 250 students annually at WSU, since 1970.

## 2017-2018 Highlights

- Served 256 students
- 74% of the program participants persisted in Fall 2017
- 94% maintained good academic standing (GPA of 2.0 or higher)
- 83% program participants earned a cumulative 2.5 GPA or higher
- 55% program participants earned a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher
- 43% of 2012-13 program cohort earned bachelor's degrees within six years

Contact: (316) 978-3715  
wichita.edu/ss



# TALENT SEARCH

**Back Row:** Larry Ramos (director), Sara Baltazar, Myron Richard; **Middle Row:** Vivien Pham, Manivone Souriya; **Front Row:** Sharon Robertson, Stephanie Haynes

## 2017-2018 Highlights

- 1,165 student served
- 99% of students persisted and advanced to the next grade level
- 45% of seniors received assistance completing the fafsa and enrolled in postsecondary
- 96% of seniors graduated with regular and/or rigorous curriculum diploma
- 112 students received tutoring during the grant year

**S**ince 1977, students attending targeted schools in USD 259 have experienced exceptional services provided by the TRIO Talent Search Program hosted by Wichita State. The program provides academic services to middle school and high school students to aid in their retention, graduation, enrollment in postsecondary institutions, and completion of college educational programs.

Program staff selected 1,165 low income and potential first-generation college students for program participation and provided information to students on college admissions, financial literacy, scholarships, ACT/SAT test preparation, and assistance with completing the FAFSA. Also, campus visits to colleges and universities were held throughout the year.

The summer enrichment program provided a unique experience for 25 rising ninth grade students. Instruction for math, computer science, language arts, financial literacy/life skills, and theater arts was part of a well-rounded program. Visits to area businesses, presentations from career professionals, and constant encouragement motivated students to envision their future by formulating ideas for life after high school. The summer program culminated with a talent show and academic awards ceremony.

Target schools included Brooks Magnet, Curtis, Hamilton, Jardine Magnet, Mayberry Magnet, Truesdell, and Pleasant Valley middle schools. Target high schools included North, Southeast, and West. Walk-in students were also served.

Contact: (316) 978-3127  
[wichita.edu/talentsearch](http://wichita.edu/talentsearch)

# Upward Bound Empowerment



Cindy Sharp, Rhonda Hicks (director), Shauntelle Thompson, Gwendolyn Duggins

**U**pward Bound Empowerment is a comprehensive, year-round college preparatory program with an emphasis on identifying and serving foster care students.

The program began in October 2017 with the mission to assist low-income, first-generation college-bound high school students in their efforts to successfully complete their secondary education while preparing them to become college graduates. Upward Bound Empowerment's program offerings include a supportive academic year program as well as a summer college experience.

Program services and activities are designed for the following areas: academic enhancement, career exploration, financial literacy, leadership

building, cultural enrichment, volunteer opportunities and life skills development.

The highly-qualified staff challenges students to perform to the best of their abilities while considering each student's unique needs for tutoring and postsecondary education counseling. Active participation is required to ensure that students achieve to their fullest potential.

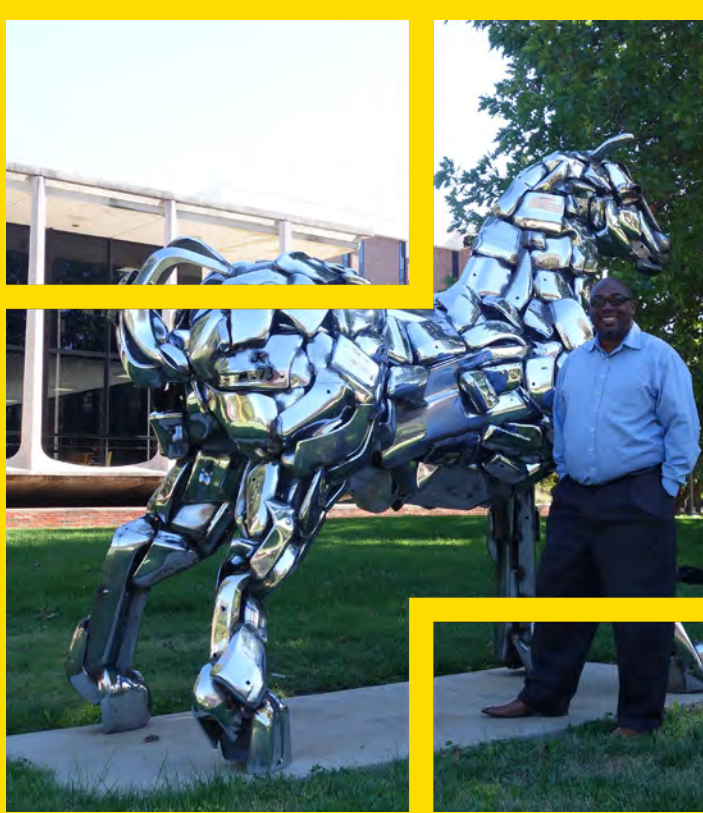
Upward Bound Empowerment's summer component is an extraordinary, life-changing experience for participants. Students engage in activities at Wichita State for six to eight weeks. Each activity is designed to emulate an authentic college experience.

## 2017-2018 Highlights

- 70.9% of students achieved a GPA over 2.50
- 100% of students persisted to the next grade level
- 50 students received individual academic counseling
- 32 students attended the Summer Residential Program

Contact: (316) 978-5343  
wichita.edu/ube

# Upward Bound Math Science



# UBMS

Derrick Veasey (director)

## 2017-2018 Highlights

- 15 research projects were presented at the UBMS Research Symposium and Science Fair
- 17 students graduated from high school in the 2018 cohort. 82% matriculated to postsecondary the following fall and one into the military
- The UBMS Center sent 13 students to postsecondary in the fall of 2017. As of this report, 100% persisted to the second year

**U**pward Bound Math-Science (UBMS) Center, in its 26th year at Wichita State University, serves students from schools in the target area of Kansas.

Upward Bound Math Science hosts 74 students who boast an interest in and propensity for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Students participate in academic year and summer components, both focusing on academic preparedness and college preparation. Activities that support academic growth and non-cognitive skills are planned to remove barriers to postsecondary education and improve college graduation rates for participants.

During the summer, participants attend a curriculum-driven, residential

experience. The summer program allows students to bolster interest in STEM and build proficiencies in research. Participants attend courses developed to foster critical thinking, research and experimentation, and the art of presentation.

Contact: (316) 978-3316  
[wichita.edu/ubms](http://wichita.edu/ubms)

# Upward Bound Wichita Prep

# Shockers

SPORTS MUSEUM

# UBWP

Jaya Escobar-Bhattacharjee, Rhonda Hicks (director), Travis Feeney

**U**pward Bound Wichita Prep (UBWP) is a comprehensive, year-round college preparatory program. Since 1965, its mission has been to assist low-income, first-generation college-bound high school students in their efforts to successfully complete their secondary education while simultaneously preparing them for the rigors of college life. Over the decades, the program's unique offerings have included a supportive academic year program as well as a challenging and rewarding summer residential college experience.

Services and activities are designed to nurture student growth in the areas of academics, career exploration, financial literacy, leadership building, cultural enrichment, and volunteer opportunities. Upward Bound Wichita Prep students are challenged to perform

to the best of their abilities while assessing each student's unique needs for tutoring and postsecondary education preparation. Active participation is required in order to ensure that students achieve their potential.

The program's summer residential component is an extraordinary, life-changing experience for participants. Students are in residence on the Wichita State campus for six to eight weeks. Each activity is designed to emulate an authentic college experience.

The students participating in the summer component have successfully completed the academic year component. Participants' academic records, as well as an individual assessment, are used to design a personalized academic plan.

## 2017-2018 Highlights

- Provided students with 1,725 hours of academic tutoring
- 71.1% of students achieved a GPA over 2.50
- 60.7% of seniors graduated completing a rigorous secondary school curriculum.
- 67.8% of participants who graduated in Spring 2018 enrolled in college for the Fall of 2018
- Students provided over 300 hours of community service

Contact: (316) 978-3019  
[wichita.edu/ubwp](http://wichita.edu/ubwp)



# Veterans Upward Bound



**Brad Webster, Stacia Lyday, Sheri Daniel-Washington, Shukura Bakari-Cozart (director)**

## 2017-2018 Highlights

- 125 students were served during the grant year
- All staff were certified in mental health first aid through the National Council for Behavioral Health
- 24 students entered postsecondary education programs
- Four previously homeless participants have found permanent housing
- Increased collaboration with the Veteran's Administration (VA)

**V**eterans Upward Bound (VUB) is hosted by Wichita State and provides a wide array of educational services to qualifying veterans in the target area.

Services include financial literacy, tutoring, workshops, counseling, and academic and career planning. Program staff also refer participants to university departments, programs and community-based agencies.

The program assists participants by identifying their academic needs and developing a plan of support that addresses the following:

- Assessment of academic skills
- Basic skills development
- Postsecondary enrollment
- College retention and completion
- Improving English and math skills
- Strategies for study skills and test taking
- Assistance in applying for financial aid, scholarships and GI Bill funding
- Computer basic skills

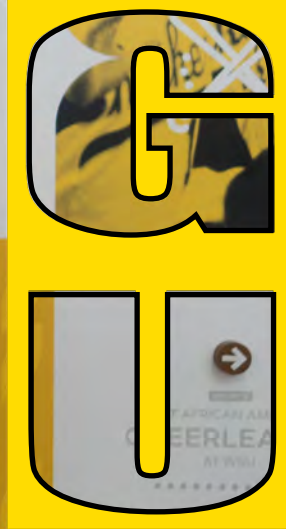
Contact: (316) 978-6742  
[wichita.edu/vub](http://wichita.edu/vub)

# Haysville

## Haysville GEAR UP

WE ARE BUILT  
ON *FIRSTS*.

THE HISTORY OF WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY  
STORIES OF PEOPLE, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS  
A LASTING LEGACY. THESE ARE THE STORIES



Kelli Bennett, Diana Carbajal (director), Abby McCalmont

**W**ichita State, under the leadership of the Office of Special Programs, recently secured another grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide support services to low income and underrepresented students in the Haysville school district. The newly funded Haysville GEAR UP aims to expand the college-going culture in Haysville. By using an empowerment model that recognizes the assets and needs of the local community, the project looks to shift the district's educational culture. The project aims to develop long-term, successful partnerships to support students in reaching college and providing them with the resources to succeed in college.

Haysville GEAR UP is a partnership grant that is hosted by Wichita State under the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. The project follows a cohort, or whole-grade model, where services are provided to all students in the participating grade level, rather than a selected group of students.

This grant relies on a committed and professional staff to provide college access and success services to all cohort students starting in middle school. Support for these students will continue until they reach the end of their first year of postsecondary education.

The Haysville GEAR UP staff works with community-based partners in USD 261 in order to accomplish the project's goals. Through this collaborative partnership, the project provides students with direct services, including mentoring, tutoring, college visits, and financial aid counseling. The program will serve a minimum of 750 students annually. The graduating classes of 2024 and 2025 will be directly impacted by the program.

### Program Objectives

- Increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education for GEAR UP students
- Increase the rates of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students
- Increase GEAR UP students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing





**TRIO Programs are funded 100% and GEAR UP is funded 50% by the U.S. Department of Education and hosted by Wichita State University under the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement.**

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