

Introduction



The TRIO and GEAR UP Programs' TRIO Day celebration was a major success! Thanks to everyone who assisted with the TRIO/GEAR UP DAY celebration. Each of the programs made it possible to showcase their significance, share the importance of students, and thank the community and university personnel.

At the event, the accomplishments of former participants were recognized. The honorees came from limited income families, were first generation, had a disability, were a returning adult, in foster care, or in the military. Each of the programs are proud of the honorees and what they have accomplished. The alumni were phenomenal.

Remarks from the mayor, WSU provost, and vice president for Diversity and Community Engagement were significant and demonstrated the commitment that each has for the programs.

A major "thank you" to each of the Building Bridges honorees for their excellent remarks about their successes and accomplishments and for sharing what the programs meant to their success. Each honoree helped the TRIO/GEAR UP staff to feel great about what they do. The programs are happy the honorees graduated from the programs, went on to college, accomplished a successful career. Special acknowledgement was given to a former GEAR UP participant who is currently on staff for her participation and her current contributions. Congratulations went to the students and participants from each program who received the Student Recognition

Awards. Each received a medallion for their academic contributions and successes. The Advocacy Award went to the director of Disability Services. Contemp-Oh! Band provided entertainment and have been significant contributors to the TRIO Day celebration. A very special "thank you" for their continued support.

The TRIO and GEAR UP Programs are thrilled to take the opportunity each year to share their successes, recognize participants, thank the community, and praise the university for their support. These programs are the life blood for many of the individuals who make decisions about college and their lives.

Planning is already underway for the 2020 TRIO and GEAR UP celebration with the hope that the campus and community will again join in! Thanks to the entire staff for a job well done!

Regards,

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

Deltha Q. Colvin
Associate Vice President for Special Programs

Evaluation

When surveyed, the vast majority of event attendees found the alumni speeches insightful (97.14%) and felt that they communicated the importance of education as a blueprint for a lifetime of success (96.45%). All attendees reported that the ceremony made them aware of the impact of TRIO/GEAR UP.

The outcomes of the CARS conference were significantly positive. Almost all attendees (100%) had an increased understanding of the programs, got new information, and were motivated to either partner or continue their current partnership with TRIO/GEAR UP programs. Moreover, significant high percentage of attendees became aware of the importance of college access (98.53%), college retention (97.18%) and college success (97.18%) for first generation, limited income and students from disadvantaged backgrounds.