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WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Special Programs

M A G A Z I N E



2019

A BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS



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Associate Vice President
for Special Programs

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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.

National TRIO/GEAR UP Day: CARS



The 2019 College Access Retention and Success (CARS) Conference included information tables and sessions.



Information sessions promoted best practices for serving the TRIO/GEAR UP target population.



Each program hosted a table to share information regarding their services.



Presentation topics ranged from serving middle school students through graduate school considerations.



Other relevant offices, such as the Office of Financial Aid, also participated in the event.



CARS attendees were entered into a drawing after visiting at least 10 tables.

National TRIO/GEAR UP Day: Banquet



TRIO/GEAR UP Day continued later that evening with a banquet in the RSC ballroom.



Campus and community leaders, including Wichita Mayor Jeff Longwell, offered remarks during the evening event.



Program participants served as event ambassadors, welcoming university administrators and other guests.



The highlight of the event was honoring current students and alumni from each program.



Event attendees were welcomed at the registration table before being seated in the ballroom.



The TRIO/GEAR Up Day banquet was well attended and appreciated by all.

Remembering National TRIO/GEAR UP Day



Kapkeo Souriya offered his thanks to the TRIO programs and many of the people in attendance.

The audience was standing on their feet cheering for what seemed like a minute or more. As the evening's honoree stepped up to the microphone, he felt his legs shake. He had not considered that the 200 people in attendance would find his life story so compelling.

Kapkeo Souriya, his wife Sisana, and their five daughters (Vannapha, Vanphasong, Phourasami, Panomsone, and Manivone) received the prestigious Building Bridges Award at the TRIO/GEAR UP Day banquet in recognition of their accomplishments. The family felt overwhelmed and thankful that the TRIO programs at Wichita State had noticed how they triumphed over extreme hardship. As the family's biography was shown, he likely remembered the days when his young family was forced to leave their beloved, and war-torn, Laos for a land he had only dreamed of and heard stories about.

As he spoke, offering his thanks to the TRIO programs and many of the people in attendance, he realized that his family had journeyed down a path that led to riches far greater than money—his daughters had all graduated from college. Education, he said, was important to his family. Therefore, after high school, he and his wife hoped that the daughters would go on to college.

Following Kapkeo's remarks, Phourasami shared her thoughts with the audience. She thanked her older sister, Vannapha, for guiding the rest of the sisters to Student Support Services. Because if it had not been for her, none of

the sisters would have experienced the tutoring, textbooks, and counseling that each received while being a TRIO participant. Phourasami recalled how the Student Support Services and McNair Scholars Program put her and three of her sisters on the path toward graduate school.

During the video biography, it was noted that four of the sisters had earned master's degrees and that Phourasami is finishing a doctorate degree in May 2019. As Phourasami concluded her remarks, she became emotional. Being driven from their home in Laos due to the war, coming to a foreign land, separated by an ocean, not knowing the language or American customs must have been one of the hardest things a person could endure. For this, the audience gave the Souriya family one last standing ovation.



Following Kapkeo's remarks, Phourasami shared her thoughts with the audience.

In addition to the family award, each program recognized one of their alumni with a Building Bridges Award. Each individual's abbreviated bio was read by LaWanda Holt-Fields, director of the McNair Scholars Program, and presented with a plaque by Associate Vice President for Special Programs Deltha Q. Colvin. Michael Kinnard of Mypictureman took photos of the alumni with the associate vice president and the program director. The honorees gave remarks and thanked the programs for all of the support received.

Other individuals recognized for outstanding achievements including Grady Landrum, director of Disability Services;

HONORING OUR OWN:

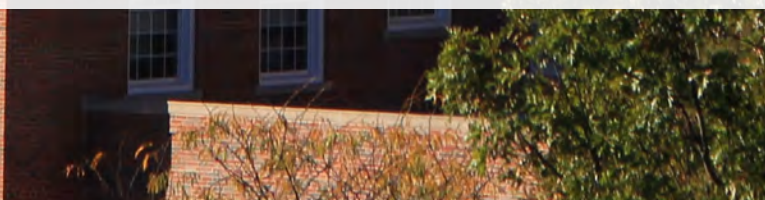
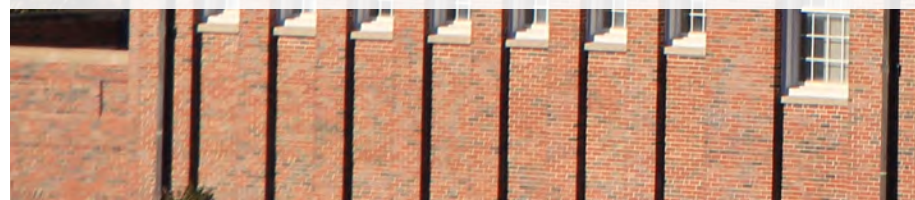


“My parents worked hard to ensure we had our basic needs met. I did not know that I was poor until I was a freshman in high school.”

The Souriya family including parents, Kapkeo & Sisana, along with their seven children – sons Vannareth and Vannaseum, and five daughters Vannapha (Vanna), Vanphasong (Vanessa), Phourasami (Samanta), Panomesone (Kao) and Manivone (Mani) immigrated to the United States in August of 1979. They left their home in Laos due to the Vietnam War and landed in Marble Hills, Missouri. Life was difficult for the Souriya family because they came as refugees and empty-handed. Their American sponsors provided housing for the family in an old abandoned hospital building located next door to their house. The family lived in one large room, however, it had kitchen appliances, sofas and beds. There, they learned to speak English and became familiar with the American culture. After a year, the Souriya family moved to Kansas City then later in 1982 moved to their permanent home in Wichita. All became U.S. citizens during this time.



Kapkeo and Sisana were working but still struggling to make ends meet. They were poor but the children never felt that they were poor. Vanna recalls, “My parents worked hard to ensure we had our basic needs met. I did not know that I was poor until I was a freshman in high school. I had to work after school to help my parents with expenses.” Vanessa adds, “All of us kids had to help out once we were of working age. If we brought home \$150, we would contribute \$100 for family expenses and keep the left-over monies to pay for our personal expenses like gas or clothes.”



THE SOURIYA FAMILY

Kapkeo and Sisana instilled the importance of education in their children. With hard work and perseverance, the Souriya sisters graduated from Wichita State. All five sisters participated in the TRIO Student Support Services Program. Vanessa, Samanta, and Mani also participated in the McNair Scholars Program. In addition to undergraduate degrees, four sisters went on to pursue graduate degrees.

Vanna received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and works as a case manager at Workforce Centers. Vanessa received a Bachelor of Arts in ethnic studies and a Master of Education in counseling. She serves as the director of TRIO Disability Support Services at WSU. Samanta is completing her dissertation and will complete a PhD in Education (curriculum and instruction) this May. She also earned a Bachelor of

Arts in criminal justice and Master of Education in curriculum and instruction. Samanta works as an ESOL Teacher at Jardine Middle School. Kao earned baccalaureate degrees in management information systems and education and a master's degree in diversity and multicultural studies. She works as an ESOL teacher at Truesdell Middle School. Mani received a Bachelor of Arts in psychology before going on to earn a Master of Education in counseling. She serves as associate director/statistician for TRIO Talent Search at WSU.





WSU GEAR UP Programs

North Wichita GEAR UP, Southeast Wichita GEAR UP, South Wichita GEAR UP, and West Wichita GEAR UP are federally funded projects. The overall goal of each project is to increase the number of high school graduates who are prepared for post-secondary enrollment. For each program, Wichita State receives \$740,000 annually from the U.S. Department of Education for six years with a required \$740,000 match. The projects also track students through their first year of college.

Each project serves a cohort of 925 students from seventh grade through high school graduation who attend schools in the Wichita Public School District. Project components

include career, academic, and personal counseling, early intervention programs, cultural activities, mentoring, Saturday and after school tutoring, workshops and trainings for parents and professionals.

Each GEAR UP has three main goals:

- Increase the academic performance and preparation of students for post-secondary education.
- Increase the high school graduation rate and post-secondary education enrollment rate of students.
- Increase students and their families' knowledge of post-secondary education options, preparation and financing.

North Wichita GEAR UP

Schools Served: North High School and West High School

Staff: Riccardo Harris (director), Francesca Chavira, Lavell Jackson, Michael Lewis, Schreen Williams

Contact Information: (316) 866-8904

South Wichita GEAR UP

Schools Served: South High School and Southeast High School

Staff: Riccardo Harris (director), Danya Burks, Diane Criner, Ervin Garnes, Kelly Payton

Contact Information: (316) 866-8904

Southeast Wichita GEAR UP

Schools Served: Coleman Middle School, Jardine Middle School, Truesdell Middle School

Staff: Wilma Holloway (director), Charlotte Edwards, Karen McNamee, Barbara Pickens, Christy Royal

Contact Information: (316) 973-5127

West Wichita GEAR UP

Schools Served: Hadley Middle School, Hamilton Middle School, Mead Middle School, Marshall Middle School, and Pleasant Valley Middle School

Staff: Janice Wright (director), Joy Barnes, Lee Hurst II, Candra Jones, Shaunita Phillips, Tom Wilcox

Contact Information: (316) 409-9267

North Wichita GEAR UP

Rising Star



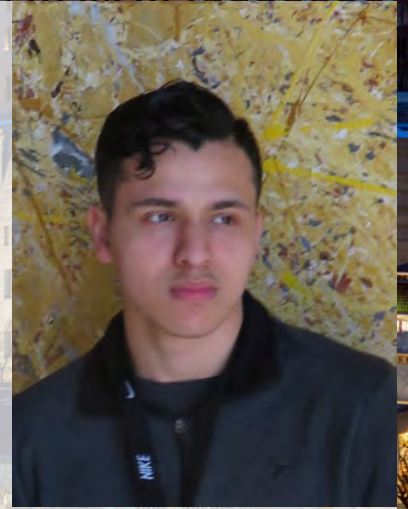
Irene Campos

Irene Campos is a junior at West High School and a participant in the North Wichita GEAR UP program. She ranks among the top 10 percent of her class. She is interested in pursuing a career in criminal justice. Irene may at times appear to be quiet and reserved, but if given the opportunity, she always commands the attention of everyone around her. When faced with a difficult problem, she analyzes the situation, evaluates her options, and offers sound advice to encourage her peers and resolve the issue. One of her goals is to leave a positive legacy for others to follow. She welcomes every occasion to get to know people, meet them where they're at, and take them to the next possible level. She is a natural leader by choice and by consensus.

According to Irene, she summed up her Youth Leadership Summit (YLS) summer experience like this: "Being chosen to represent GEAR UP was such a surprise for me. I felt very honored to be able to represent such an amazing program. I was not expecting to meet so many people from all over the country at this conference. I got to connect and interact with outstanding individuals. I learned how to make a difference and put my ideas to work. I am able to achieve so much if I put my ideas to work. Thank you for this opportunity."

South Wichita GEAR UP

Rising Star



Miguel Schlesinger

Miguel Schlesinger is a junior at Southeast High School and is a participant in the South Wichita GEAR UP program. At an early age, he recalls his parents telling him that he was going to college. After failing three classes in the fifth grade, his parents decided that he should be held back. As embarrassing as it was at the time, Miguel used this as an opportunity to start over. With renewed confidence and a sense of purpose, he decided to focus on creating a path to success. He often remembers his parents' advice to strive for success not just hope for it. He joined the GEAR UP program during the second semester of his sophomore year and was able to participate in many of the events and services provided.

He sums up his experience like this: "I admire the dedication GEAR UP has to its students, promoting careers and connecting with students to help them think about the future. As a student who has a plan for the future, it is sad to know that there are others who haven't considered one. Last spring, I went on a week-long trip to Texas touring college campuses. In addition to connecting with other GEAR UP students from different schools in Wichita, I had an opportunity to speak with Riccardo Harris about what I wanted to accomplish in the future and I left that conversation feeling fully supported and thinking what a blessing GEAR UP is to me."

Continued from Page 4.



Provost Richard Muma, Ph.D., addressed the audience.

and, Lorene Berg, assistant director of Upward Bound Math Science Center. Earlier in the evening, Kiana Knolland, former Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP participant, was honored as well. In addition, Provost Richard Muma, Ph.D., Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement Marche Fleming-Randle, Ph.D., Mayor Jeff Longwell, and Colvin addressed the audience.



Lorene Berg, assistant director of Upward Bound Math Science Center was also recognized.

During the day, the Office of Special Programs (OSP) hosted the College Access, Success and Retention (CARS) Conference in the Rhatigan Student Center. Presentations from many of the TRIO and GEAR UP programs on topics familiar to the respective programs were held. Attendees included university faculty and staff, public school personnel, and community agency representatives. This was the second year OSP sponsored the event as part of National TRIO/GEAR UP Day activities.

The highlight of the day was honoring current students and the alumni. Each program selected a current participant as their student of the year.

The following students were presented with medallions:

- Marissa Mullen - Communication Upward Bound
- Andrea Reed - Disability Support Services
- Sharee Mitchell - Educational Opportunity Centers
- Brianna - Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP
- Alondra Del Real - McNair Scholars Program
- Lillian Tran - Student Support Services
- Priscilla Castaneda - Talent Search
- Jasmine Garcia - Upward Bound Empowerment
- Bo Tolbert - Upward Bound Math Science
- Annai Loza - Upward Bound Wichita Prep
- Michael Collins - Veterans Upward Bound

Alumni honorees included the following individuals:

- Kristin Stinnett - Communication Upward Bound
- Jenna Smith - Disability Support Services
- Darryl Carrington - Educational Opportunity Centers
- Jessica Wingfield - Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP
- Rebecca Rodriguez Carey - McNair Scholars Program
- Anthony Dozier - Office of Special Programs
- Jennifer Nguyen - Student Support Services
- Mallela Sabas - Talent Search
- Thuy Nguyen - Upward Bound Math Science
- Mark Nola - Upward Bound Wichita Prep
- Brandon Blodgett - Veteran's Upward Bound

To end the festivities, Colvin thanked each of the TRIO and GEAR UP program directors and the staff who devote their passion and energies to the educational and career goals of the students. This year's event brought to light the magnitude and long-lasting commitment that WSU has made in providing equal educational opportunities to the citizens of Wichita, the state, and the nation through its TRIO and GEAR UP programs.



OSP directors were also recognized.

National TRIO/GEAR UP Day: Moments



National TRIO/GEAR UP Day: Moments



To learn more about
Wichita State University
Special Programs and
TRIO Day 2019 go to:
wichita.edu/osp





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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