



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



TRIO Talent Search

www.wichita.edu/talentsearch

1845 Fairmount Street, Campus Box 96
Wichita, KS 67260-0096

Phone: 316.978.3127
Fax: 316.978.3527

ANNUAL REPORT VIDEO CONTENTS

- Highlighted Campus Visits
- College Readiness Activities
- Special Programs
- Professional Development
- Program Statistics
- Program Evaluations
- A Movie in Pictures

**This CD features an audio
introduction**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Annual Report CD	2
Message from the Director	4
Program Description and Mission Statement	5
Program Goals and Objectives	6
Services and Activities	8
Year at a Glance	13
Organizational Chart	15
Program Staff	16



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Please enjoy this annual report for the 2019-2020 grant year. This year was like no other that we have ever experienced. When COVID-19 struck our nation in February, no one had a clue what would come. In March, the entire state of Kansas went on lockdown. With schools closed and workplaces pivoting to remote locations, no one had any clear answers or plans for the future. Talent Search was no different. All services were quickly rearranged to a virtual format, including tutoring, campus visits, academic and personal counseling, and the middle school summer enrichment program.

The U.S. Department of Education provided guidance to the program to help it achieve its goals. The staff was severely hampered by the closure of all the target schools with regards to recruiting students and providing onsite services to students. However, despite the numerous hurdles faced by the staff, the program remained a viable service to students for the remainder of the school year. The program also experienced several changes at Wichita State University as well. The newly hired president of the university suddenly resigned, the program was moved to a newly-formed division, and the pandemic continued to inflict pain and suffering on students, staff, and the university community.

With all the trials of the pandemic, the program fell short of reaching the required number of students by 100. Also, fewer graduating seniors decided to enroll in postsecondary school causing the program to again fall short of the objective. However, in light of all the programs suffering similar challenges, the federal government decided to provide some relief and allow the program to drop its performance objectives for the 2019-2020 grant year. As a result, the program was not hurt by the pandemic and the inability to meet all its objectives.

Special thanks to the following individuals for helping the project through the most challenging year ever experienced by the program: Associate Vice President Deltha Q. Colvin for her outstanding leadership in guiding all of the TRIO and GEAR UP programs through the pandemic; Marché Fleming-Randle, Ph.D., Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement for supporting the program and providing curbside meals to summer program students; Former President Jay Golden, Interim President Rick Muma, and Kaye Monk-Morgan, Vice President for Regional Engagement and Economic Development. All mentioned individuals were instrumental in their respective areas to support the TRIO Talent Search Program.

Finally, the program staff is to be commended for working hard and being innovative in reaching out to students, parents, and school personnel. Without their commitment, the program could not have achieved and thrived under the direst of circumstances. Their passion for students is unmatched and their desire to perform at a high level will not be forgotten.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

TRIO Affiliation

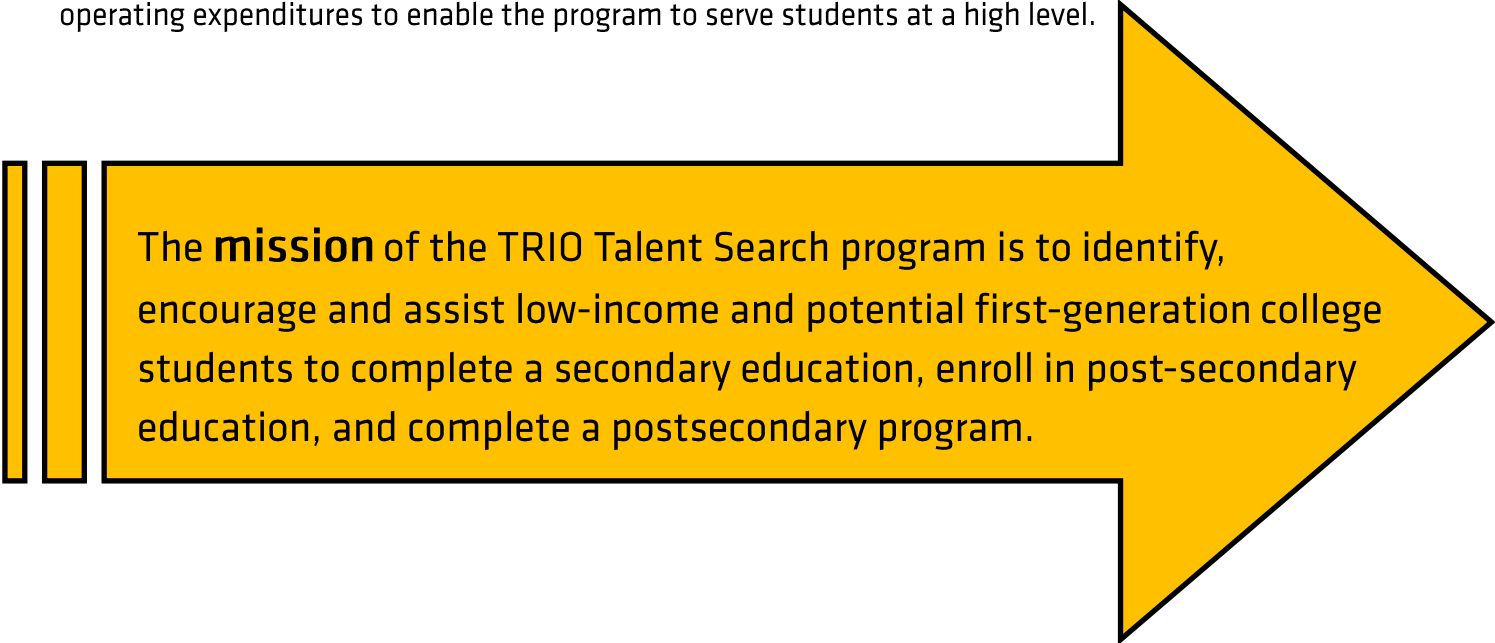
Talent Search is the TRIO program created under the Higher Education Act of 1965. The program is housed on the Wichita State main campus. Other TRIO programs at Wichita State University include Communication Upward Bound, Disability Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers, McNair Scholars Program, Student Support Services, Upward Bound Math-Science, Upward Bound Wichita Prep, Veterans Upward Bound, and Upward Bound Empowerment.

Grant Funding

For the 2019-2020 academic year, Talent Search was awarded funding in the amount of \$624,429 from the U.S. Department of Education, and additional award of \$40,000 towards STEM activities. This grant also supported the Middle School Virtual Summer Enrichment Program, campus visits during the academic year, workshops on financial literacy and ACT preparation, and services provided during the academic year and summer After School Tutoring Program.

Daily Operation

The program employs a full-time director, associate director/statistician, middle school director, three program educational advisors, a senior administrative assistant as well as part-time tutors and student assistants. While most of the grant funds were allocated to services provided to students, funds were included for allowable professional staff development, equipment, supplies and other operating expenditures to enable the program to serve students at a high level.



The **mission** of the TRIO Talent Search program is to identify, encourage and assist low-income and potential first-generation college students to complete a secondary education, enroll in post-secondary education, and complete a postsecondary program.

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Since 2016, the program has responded to the mandatory program objectives developed by the U.S. Department of Education.

Secondary School Persistence:

Ninety-five percent of non-senior participants served each project year will complete the current academic year and continue in school for the next academic year, at the next grade level.

The program achieved 100 percent.



Secondary School Graduation:

Eighty percent of seniors served during the project year will graduate during the project year with a regular secondary school diploma within the standard number of years.

The program achieved 99 percent.



Secondary School Graduation

(Rigorous Secondary School Program of Study):

Twenty-five percent of seniors served during the project year will complete a rigorous secondary school program of study and will graduate during the project year with a regular secondary school diploma within the standard number of years.

The program achieved 25 percent.



Postsecondary Education Enrollment:

Sixty-five percent of participants, who graduated with a regular secondary school diploma, during the project year will enroll in an institution of higher education by the fall term immediately following high school graduation or will have received notification, by the fall term immediately following high school, from an institution of higher education, of acceptance but deferred enrollment until the next academic term (e.g. spring term).

The program achieved 54 percent.




Postsecondary Attainment:

Forty-five percent of participants served during the project year, which enrolled in an institution of higher education, by the fall term immediately following high school graduation or by the next academic term (e.g. spring term) as a result of acceptance but deferred enrollment will, complete a program of postsecondary education within six years.

The program achieved 45 percent.

Please note the following definition:

Enrolled – a participant who has completed the registration requirements (except for the payment of tuition and fees) at the institution that he or she is attending.

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

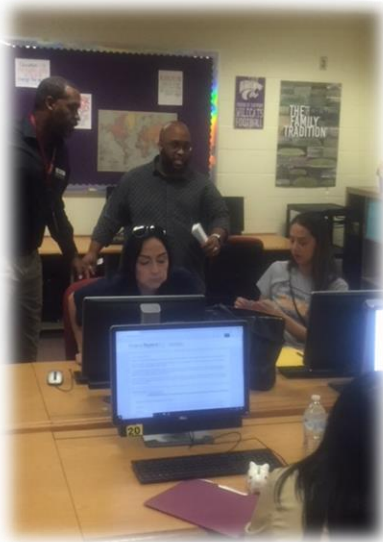
To ensure students achieved their educational goals, the program offered a wide array of services and activities during the grant year to meet their needs. The following provides a brief overview of the services and activities provided by the program.

Academic Advising, Assistance in Pre-College and Rigorous Course Planning and College Course Selection

Program counselors advised students on rigorous pre-college curriculum to ensure postsecondary eligibility. A month-long summer program on high school preparation was conducted online to assist eighth grade students in making a successful transition from middle school to high school. Graduating seniors were advised of college course offerings and possible majors. Juniors and seniors were advised on the procedures to take classes for college credit while still in high school.

Assistance in Completing College Admission Applications and Financial Aid Forms

FAFSA Night @ West High



Students received technical assistance in completing college admission applications and financial aid forms. A computer lab was available for program students to complete online applications and to complete the FAFSA. Program counselors reviewed applications and students were advised of admission application fee waivers and grants for TRIO participants available at many colleges and universities.

Workshops were offered throughout the year providing students information on financial literacy, scholarships and other related topics. TRIO Talent Search held two informational sessions in the months of November and December for the Give Something Back scholarship opportunity, which provides full-ride scholarships to 50 first-generation students who face challenging circumstances for them to attend college. Talent Search also participated in Apply Kansas: College Application Month, a state-wide initiative in partnership with the American College Application Campaign whose goal is to ensure 60 percent of Kansas residents earn a college degree or other credential.

TRIO programs collaborated with Kansas Kids at GEAR UP and WSU's Office of Financial Aid to host the FAFSA Night at West High School and the Family Financial Aid Workshop at the Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex.

Assistance in Preparing for College Entrance Examinations

Program counselors advised students on preparing for the ACT and SAT exams. The program's computer lab and After School Tutoring Program/College Resource Library houses study guides and practice test materials.

Counselors advised students on test taking strategies, good study habits, what to expect on exam day, and other topics in order to help prepare students for exams. ACT and SAT registration fee waivers were provided to students who met limited income guidelines. The program collaborated with the WSU Counseling and Testing Center to register numerous students for ACT test preparation workshops held throughout the year.

Mentoring and Career Counseling

Students met with program staff for mentoring relationships after school. Students could talk about any concerns they had regarding school, home life, or express their ideas for future goals. Workshops were conducted in middle schools, high schools and community agencies on career and educational opportunities. Talent Search also hosted College Jump Start and College Kick Off events to assist seniors in making sure that their FAFSA, college admissions and housing applications were complete and that they were scheduled for college orientation.



Guidance on Secondary School Re-Entry or Entry to Other Programs Leading to a Secondary School Diploma or Its Equivalent

Program counselors offered advice to students who had dropped out of high school to re-enter school or enroll in an alternative education program. The purpose of this support was to assist students in receiving their high school diplomas, high school equivalency, or GED so that they could become eligible to apply to postsecondary institutions.

Campus Visits

Students had the opportunity to go on campus visits throughout the year to learn about admissions, financial aid, housing options, majors and other college-related matters. The program took students to in-state and out-of-state postsecondary institutions. Campus visits included: Baker University, Butler Community College, Cowley Community College, Emporia State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, University of Kansas, Wichita State University, and WSU Tech (NCAT & South).

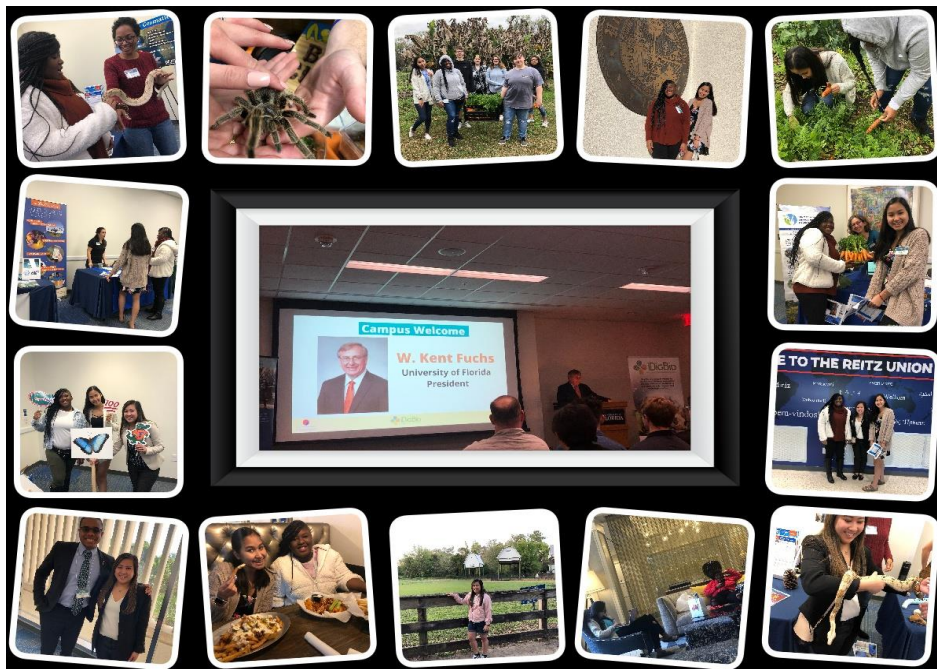


Clockwise: Cowley Community College, WSU Tech (NCAT & South), University of Kansas, Baker University, Butler Community College, Emporia State University, Pittsburg State University, Butler Community College, Kansas State University, and Wichita State University.

STEM Activities

The Talent Search project was awarded a one-time supplement grant of \$40,000 from the U.S. Department of Education to support student activities designed to give participants hands-on STEM learning opportunities via innovative delivery mechanisms and student mastery of prerequisite coursework to ensure success in critical thinking, problem-solving, and inquiry-based learning. These activities meet the needs of the target population interested in math, science, technology, and engineering programs of study and supports the creation and expansion of partnership building with institutions of higher education and local agencies.

During the academic school year, a STEM tutor was hired to assist students struggling in math, science and computer technology. The program also collaborated with iTutorGroup, an online education services company, which provides web-based tutoring (virtual classroom assistance) to student participants who are unable to attend on-campus after school tutoring or their school-based tutoring services.

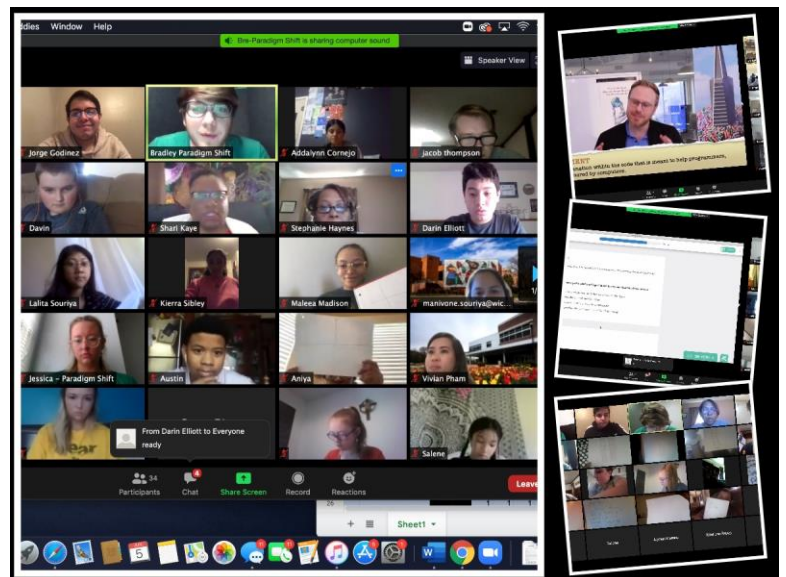


On February 1-2, 2019, Talent Search sponsored undergraduate students interested in attending the iDigTRIO Biology Conference and Career Fair held at the University of Florida (UF) in Tampa, Florida. The first day of the event included career shadowing in various labs and departments, including the Whitney Lab for Marine Bioscience in St. Augustine, Florida and various research collections at the Florida Museum. Participants were also invited to a reception, featuring Dr. Angela Linder, UF Associate Provost for Undergraduate Affairs. The second day, concurrent sessions were held to raise awareness of the multitude of career options in the biological sciences and students were given the opportunity to interact with different student organizations, learn about campus-based resources, graduate funding opportunities, and hear from University of Florida scientists who shared their experiences in the STEM field.

Other planned activities included four high school and four middle school student campus visits to colleges and universities whose curricula emphasized STEM. Talent Search collaborated with admissions, financial aid, and departmental-specific college personnel from Oklahoma State University, Kansas State Polytechnic Campus, and the University of Tulsa to ensure up to 25 students could attend each campus visit. Unfortunately, due to the 2019 Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, students were only able to attend the Oklahoma State campus tour. In addition, other planned activities included the cancelled Middle School Summer Enrichment Program's week-long STEM Summer Camp: Connecting Past and Future, sponsored by the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum in Oklahoma City. Also, WSU's workshop with GoCreate STEM Courses where students would apply mathematical, computational, and problem-solving skills and concepts to complete projects had to be cancelled.

Tutorial Services and Summer Enrichment Program for Middle School Students

Tutoring and homework assistance was provided to program students. The program maintained a staff of nine tutors for math and other subjects. One tutor was assigned to each of the target middle school and high schools – Target middle schools: Brooks Technology and Arts, Jardine STEM and Career Explorations, Mayberry Cultural and Fine Arts Magnet, Pleasant Valley, Hamilton, and Curtis; target high schools: North, Southeast, and West.



During the summer, 30 students were selected for the Middle School Virtual Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) via Zoom video conferencing due to the COVID-19 stay-home order by Kansas Governor Laura Kelly. Class instruction was held Monday-Thursday from 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m., including math and language arts provided by iTutor and science provided by Nucleus Robotics with the assistance of PEA Sara Baltazar and Tutor Maleea Madison. On Fridays, a virtual campus visit or a motivational guest speaker presented from 10-11 a.m. and Paradigm Shift conducted fun, educational activities from 1-2 p.m. Guest speakers included Kaye Monk-Morgan from the Office of Academic Affairs who presented "Only One in the Room" illustrating that the majority does not always have to rule. Anna Wray from the Office of Counseling and Testing gave a presentation on mental health. On the last day of the summer program, students participated in a talent showcase/awards and recognition ceremony.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

Talent Search participates in various educational and cultural activities. This timeline highlights some of those activities.

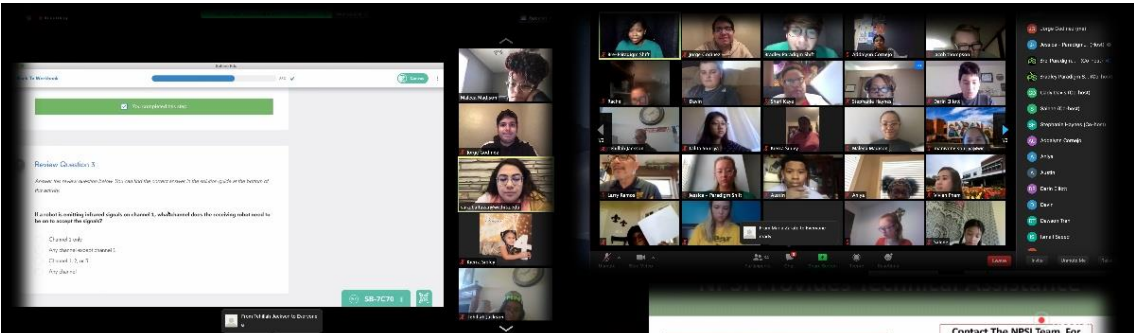


Sept - College Jump Start;
 Oct - Expanding Your Horizons STEM Conference;
 Nov - Give Something Back Scholarship Presentation



Dec - Pittsburg State University Campus Visit;
 Jan - Cowley College Campus Visit;
 Feb - Baker University Campus Visit

Mar – OSU STEM Tour;
 Apr- Daily Virtual Staff
 Meetings via Zoom
 Video Conferences;
 May – Graduation



Center's first ever Virtual Part-Time Student Employment Fair is a success!

As a Career Development Center, we are excited to announce that we hosted 211 students, who had 700 interactions, with 32 employers at our first ever Virtual Part-Time Student

NPSI is a team of experienced practitioners who can provide technical assistance and coaching support to district and school based leaders, higher educational institutions, business leaders and college access organizations.

ENGAGE US!

Contact The NPSI Team For Technical Assistance With:

POSTSECONDARY PLANNING

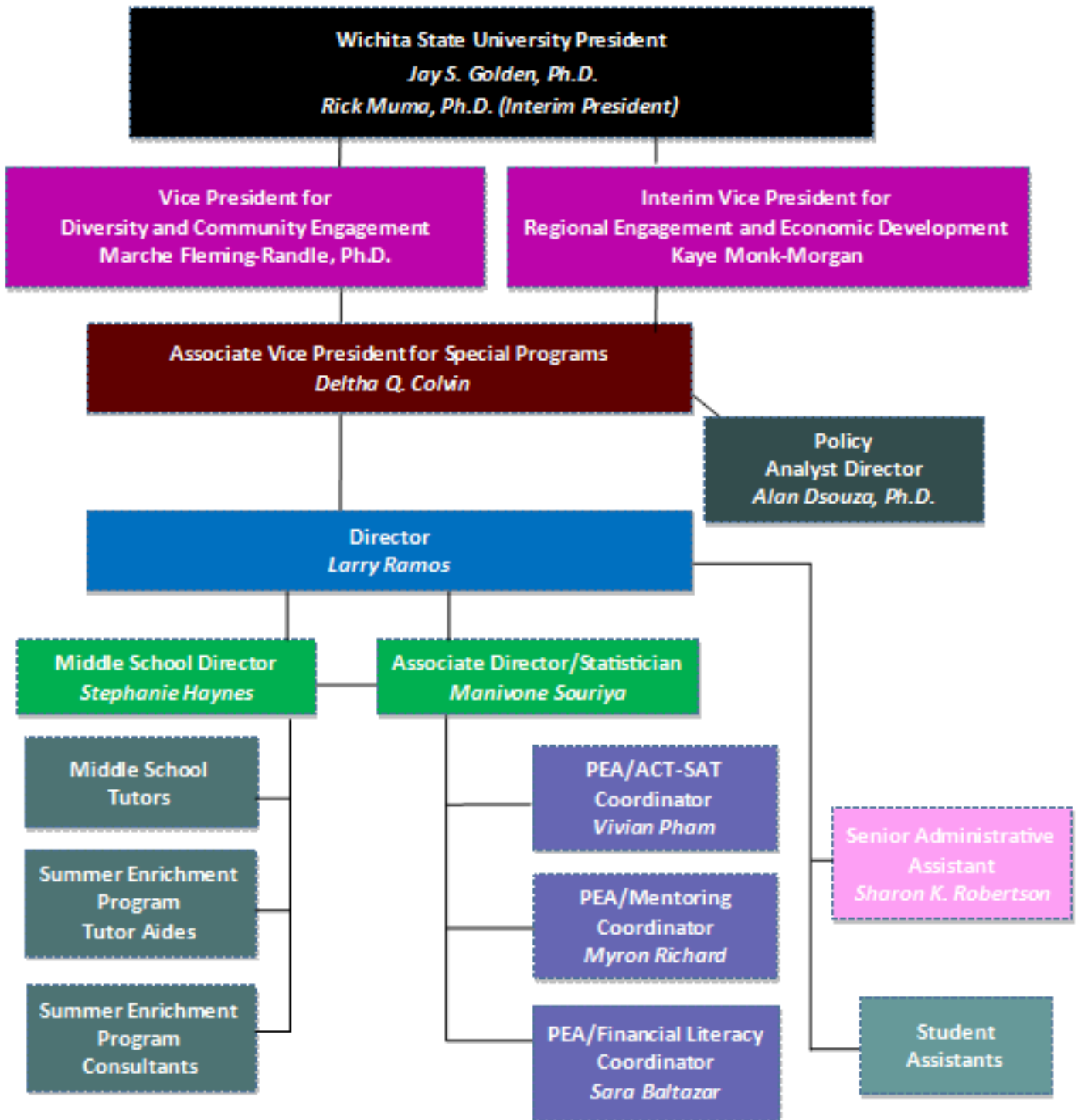
1. Data Aligned Postsecondary Planning
2. FAFSA Completion & Affordability Planning
3. Grade 8 – 10 Transition Strategies including Early Warning and 9th Grade On Track Monitoring
4. High School To Higher Education Transition Strategies
5. School Counselor Postsecondary Advising Training
6. Workforce Readiness & Career Pathways Strategies
7. Fall & March Advising

uSU Step 4. Strategies to do it all

- Prioritize on a regular basis
- Plan weekly
- Diagnose your plan
 - Is it balanced? – Does it cater to all of my roles?
 - Does it fit my priorities?
 - Be honest, if the answer is “No”
- Manage your time – it is quite precious!
 - Don't waste time saying “I don't have time”
 - Know how you spend your time
- **Make time**
 - Delegate
 - Multitask

Jun – Middle School Summer Enrichment Program;
 Jul –Virtual Career Fair;
 Aug – Staff Professional Development Training

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



PROGRAM STAFF



Mani Souriya,
Associate Director/Statistician

Stephanie Haynes,
Middle School Director

Myron Richard,
Program Educational
Advisor/Mentoring
Coordinator

Larry Ramos,
Program Director

Sara Baltazar,
Program Educational
Advisor/Financial Literacy
Coordinator

Vivian Pham,
Program Educational
Advisor/ACT & SAT Coordinator

Sharon Robertson,
Senior Administrative Assistant

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its employment practices, educational programs or activities on the basis of age (40 years or older), ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. Retaliation against an individual filing or cooperating in a complaint process is also prohibited. Sexual misconduct, relationship violence and stalking are forms of sex discrimination and are prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972. Complaints or concerns related to alleged discrimination may be directed to the Director of Equal Opportunity or the Title IX Coordinator, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260, telephone 316-978-3187.

TRIO Talent Search is 100% funded by the United States Department of Education and is hosted by WSU. Funding for 2019-2020 is \$664,429.