

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**TRIO**  
WORKS  
**Talent Search**

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## DIGITAL ANNUAL REPORT CONTENTS

Detailed reports on program activities, services, statistics, and evaluations can be accessed from the USB drive.

- Program Highlights Video
- Campus Visits
- College Readiness Activities
- Special Programs
- Professional Development Reports
- Program Statistics
- Program Evaluations

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# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2021-2022 marks the end of the first year of the new grant and a return to in-person interaction with program participants. The staff did a tremendous job in achieving success and in making progress towards meeting the program's objectives. I would like to thank Associate Vice President for the Office of Special Programs Deltha Q. Colvin for her unwavering leadership. It is vital to have someone of her stature and expertise to call upon for support and direction. Special thanks to WSU President Richard Muma, Ph.D. and Executive Vice President and Provost Shirley Lefever, Ph.D. for their strong leadership and support. The Talent Search staff continues to reimagine the delivery of program services, refine marketing strategies, and pursue excellence in achieving the objectives of the program.



It is important to mention the support that the program received from the Office of Research and Technology Transfer. Their work is critical to ensure the program operates seamlessly and in compliance with university, state, and federal rules and regulations. Program Specialists Reginald Jackson and David Howe of the U.S. Department of Education have been extremely helpful in providing technical assistance regarding grant administration and budget development. This year, the program's request to offer stipends to participants who successfully completed the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program was approved and provided much needed financial support to low income students.

Finally, special thanks to all Wichita Public School partners included Brooks Middle School, Curtis Middle School, Gordon Parks Academy, Hamilton Middle School, Jardine Middle School, Mayberry Middle School, North High School, Southeast High School, and West High School. The participants, counselors, teachers, and support staff work together to ensure that eligible low-income and potential first-generation college students are connected to Talent Search staff and services.

# PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

## TRIO Affiliation and Brief Historical Perspective

Talent Search 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, Talent Search-South, Upward Bound Math-Science, Upward Bound Wichita Prep, and Veterans Upward Bound.

On November 8, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the 1965 Higher Education Act (HEA), which included several programs that have changed the landscape of education in this nation. Major pillars of that law included access, equal educational opportunity, increased financial aid for students (work study, low interest student loans, Pell Grants, and strengthening resources to higher education institutions). The Talent Search program was the first TRIO program authorized under the HEA in 1965. The Upward Bound Program preceded Talent Search in 1964 (Upward Bound was established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964). The amended HEA of 1968 authorized the third of a series of educational opportunity programs, the Student Support Services Program, originally named the Special Services for Disadvantaged Students. By the late 1960s, the term “TRIO” had become the umbrella identifier of these programs.

Nationally, there are eight TRIO programs that annually serve approximately 850,000 low-income and first-generation students. Millions of students have been nurtured, assisted, and supported through TRIO programs and resources initiated in the 1965 HEA and subsequent amendments. The TRIO programs have had a major effect on millions of low-income and first-generation students, moving them from poverty to middle class, from limited access to postsecondary education, to graduating from colleges and universities. The students have succeeded in unimaginable ways and have become leaders, teachers, entrepreneurs, doctors, and social justice engineers on a global scale. These remarkable individuals include television icon Oprah Winfrey, academy award-winning actress Viola Davis, political strategist Donna Brazile, astronauts Franklin Chang-Diaz and Bernard Harris, congresswoman Gwendolynne Moore, former U.S. congressman Henry Bonilla, to name a few, and millions of other trailblazers and achievers. They are evidence of TRIO’s transformational and global impact. TRIO is the bridge that moves students from where they are to where they want to be. TRIO programs have been a critical tool in actualizing and maximizing the benefits of the 1965 HEA for low-income and first-generation students throughout the United States. “TRIO Works,” and thousands of students achieve and succeed because of TRIO every day.

- Excerpts from Jerry Lewis, Executive Director, Academic Achievement Programs, 2022

## Daily Operations

The program employs an executive director, associate director/statistician, middle school director, three program educational advisors, an administrative specialist, 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.



## Grant Funding

For the 2021-2022 academic year, Talent Search was awarded funding in the amount of \$624,429 from the U.S. Department of Education. This grant supports the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program (SEP), campus visits, workshops on financial literacy and ACT preparation, the After School Tutoring Program (ASTP), and other services provided throughout the academic year.

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-eight 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 98 percent.**

Secondary  
School  
Graduation:

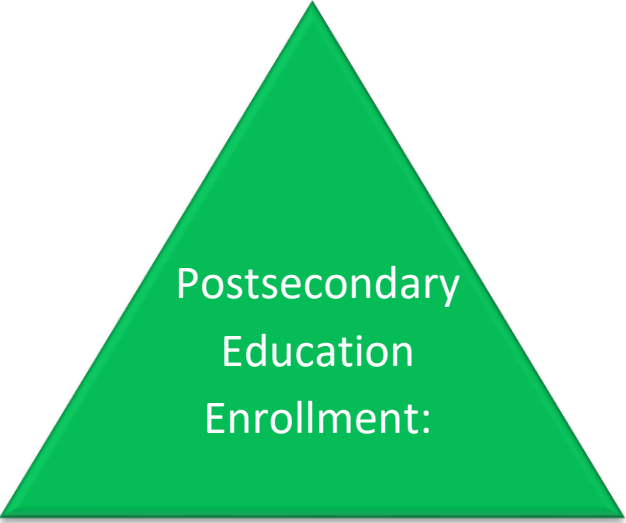
Eighty percent of seniors served during the project year will graduate during the project year with a regular secondary school diploma within the standard number of years.

**The program achieved 96 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.

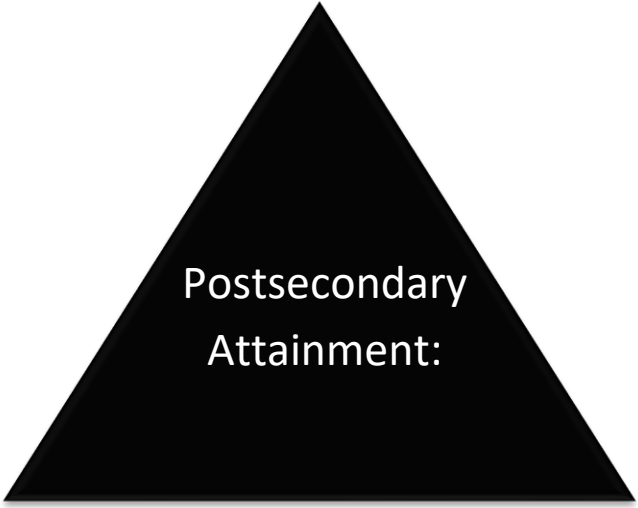
**The program achieved 18 percent.**



Postsecondary  
Education  
Enrollment:

Fifty-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 51 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 43 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 Educational Advisors advised students on rigorous pre-college curriculum to ensure postsecondary eligibility. Students were given the opportunity to view online lessons and connect weekly with their Talent Search advisors to discuss college plans and receive academic support. Graduating seniors were advised of college course offerings and possible majors.

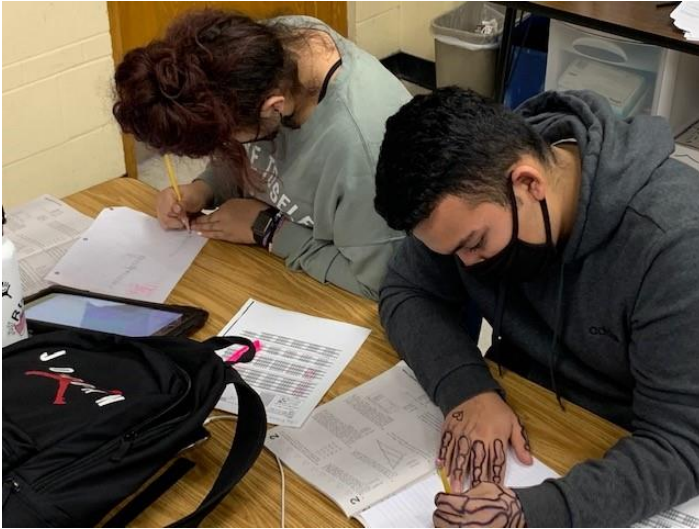
Senior-level students received assistance with applying to postsecondary institutions, completing the FAFSA and scholarship applications, registering for courses and campus orientation, arranging for housing, and identifying a college advisor. Juniors and seniors were advised on the procedures to select classes for college credit while still in high school. Middle school students were offered the opportunity to participate in the summer enrichment program to help them make a successful transition from middle school to high school.



## Assistance in Completing College Admission Applications and Financial Aid Forms

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 including the FAFSA. Program advisors reviewed applications and students were provided admission application fee waivers and grants offered at many colleges and universities for TRIO participants. Online and in-person workshops were offered throughout the year providing students information on financial literacy, scholarships, and other related topics. TRIO Talent Search frequently posted scholarship information, such as the Gates Scholarship, on its Facebook page.





## Assistance in Preparing for College Entrance Examinations

Program advisors showed students how to prepare for the ACT and SAT exams. The program's College Resource Library houses study guides and practice test materials. Academic resources such as rack cards and pamphlets on money management, financial aid, college admissions, the FAFSA, goal-setting, and college preparation were provided to students.

Program advisors connected with students using Remind™, emails, text messaging and other social media on test taking strategies, effective study habits, and other topics related to being better prepared for coursework and exams. ACT and SAT registration fee waivers were obtained and provided to students who met eligibility guidelines. The program also conducted ACT workshops.

## Mentoring and Career Counseling

Students met with program staff for mentoring via phone calls, Remind™ messaging, video conferencing, other available media, or at the target schools. Students could express any concerns they had regarding school, home life, or their ideas for the future. Presentations on career and educational opportunities were conducted for middle schools, high schools, and community agencies. Talent Search also hosted a College Jump Start event at the Marcus Welcome Center on the WSU main campus to introduce high school students to the FAFSA, the college admissions process, campus housing options, college orientation programs, and the state requirements for completing the qualified admissions curriculum.



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

Program advisors provided information to individuals, who had dropped out of high school, on how to re-enter school or enroll in an alternative education program. The purpose of this service was to support students in completing their high school diplomas, high school equivalency, or GED so that they could become eligible to apply to postsecondary institutions. Individuals were also referred to the Educational Opportunity Centers program for assistance.

## Campus Visits

The program partnered with TRIO Talent Search-South to offer high school students campus visits throughout the academic year to learn about admissions, financial aid, housing options, majors, and other college-related matters. Campus visits included: Butler Community College, Cowley Community College, Emporia State University, Hutchinson Community College, Kansas State University, Newman University, University of Kansas, Wichita State University, and WSU Tech.



Program educational advisors also chaperoned middle school students on campus visits. Hamilton Middle School students visited Cowley Community College, Jardine Middle School students visited Wichita State University, and several program participants attended Wichita State University's TRIO/GEAR UP Day.



## Tutorial Services and Summer Enrichment Program for Middle School Students

Tutoring and homework assistance was provided to program students. A tutor was assigned to several of the target middle school and high schools to provide assistance in math and other subjects. In June and July, 25 middle school students were selected to participate in the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP). Teaching consultants provided class instruction Monday-Friday on the WSU main campus. Subjects included English, math, science, life skills/financial literacy, and theater arts. Science featured robotics and was supported by Nucleus Inc. Fun, interactive educational activities were held on Wednesdays and Fridays, including campus visits, motivational guest speakers, Music Theatre of Wichita events, and field trips, including Stratata Salt Mines and Tanganyika Wildlife Park. On the final day, students participated in a talent showcase/awards and recognition ceremony. In addition, students attended a college road trip to Kansas City, MO.



# YEAR AT A GLANCE

Talent Search participates in various educational and cultural activities.

This timeline highlights some of those events...



**Sept.** – Southeast High Buff Blast

**Oct.** – TRIO/GEAR UP WSU Campus Visit

**Nov.** – First Generation Week Fair

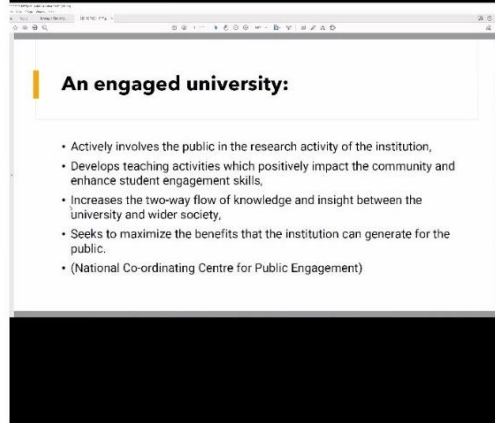
**Dec.** – Office of Special Programs Holiday Gala:

Team Building Activities

**Jan.** – Student Engagement and Planning Division

Refresh Meeting

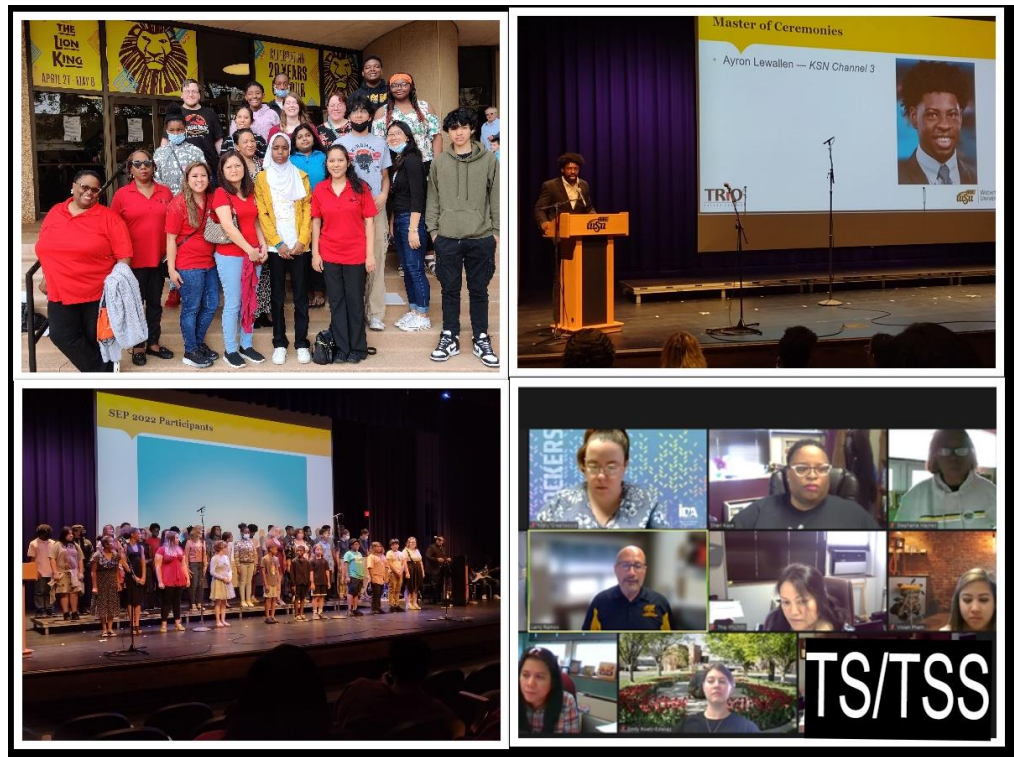
**Feb.** – TRIO Priority Trainings



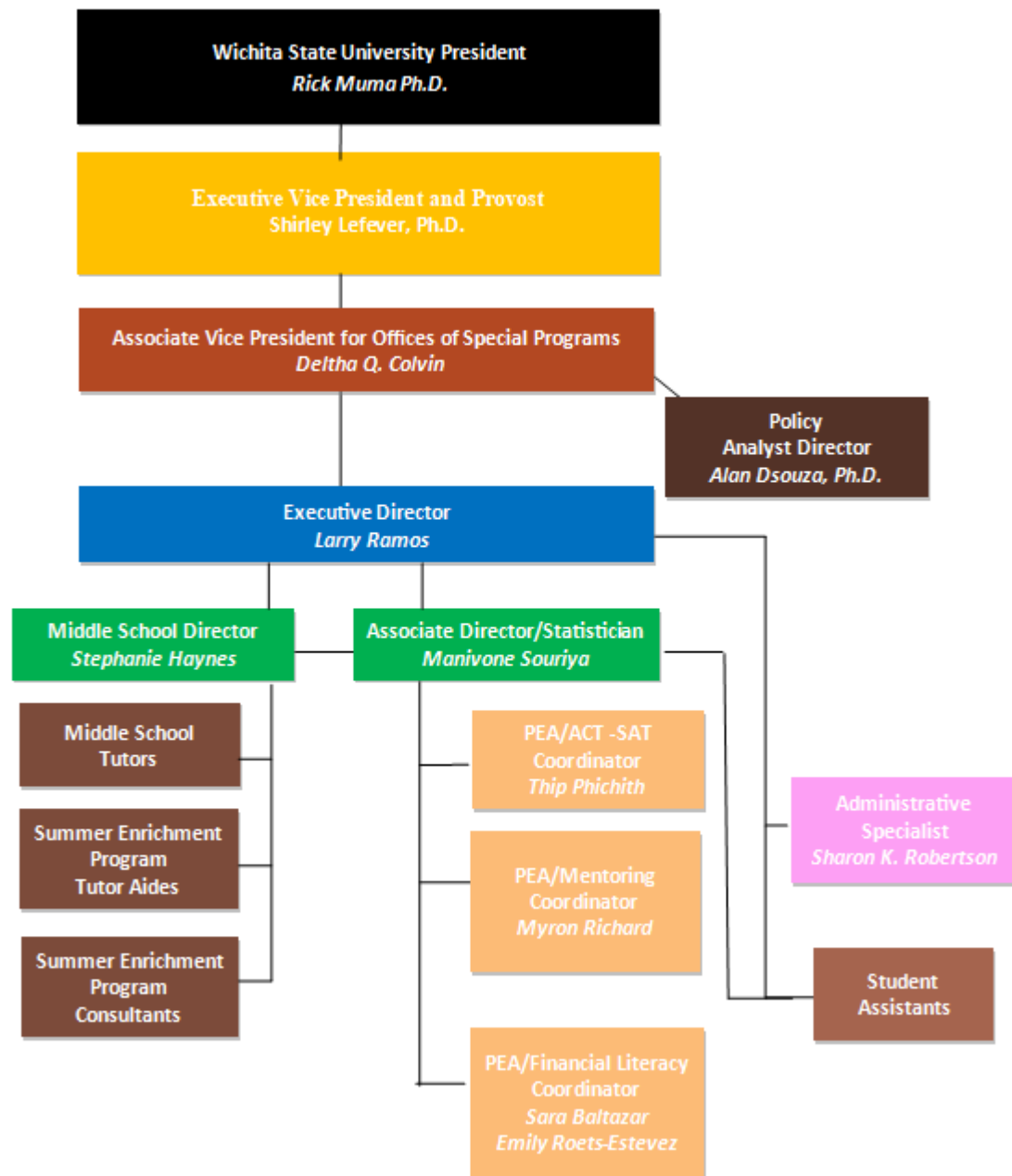


**Mar.** – Virtual ACT  
Prep Workshop  
**Apr.** – MO-KAN-NE  
Annual Conference  
**May** – Graduations;  
“The Lion King”  
Theatre Production

**Jun.- Jul.** –Middle School  
Summer Enrichment Program  
**Aug.** – Staff Planning Meetings



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# PROGRAM STAFF



*Larry Ramos,*  
Executive Director

*Manivone Souriya,*  
Associate  
Director/Statistician

*Stephanie Haynes,*  
Middle School Director

*Myron Richard,*  
Program Educational  
Advisor/Mentoring  
Coordinator



*Sara Baltazar,*  
Program Educational  
Advisor/Financial Literacy  
Coordinator

*Emily Roets-Estevez,*  
Program Educational  
Advisor/Financial Literacy  
Coordinator

*Thip Phichith,*  
Program Educational  
Advisor/ACT & SAT  
Coordinator

*Sharon Robertson,*  
Administrative Specialist

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