



# TS EXPRESS

NEWSLETTER

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## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Happy holidays and warm wishes to all TRIO Talent Search students!

Have a wonderful winter break and return to school in January with a renewed sense of purpose and motivation. The Talent Search program has planned for a wonderful spring 2023 and hopes that students will take full advantage of the opportunities that exist for them. For seniors, the new year will be an important time for decision-making. If college is a part of the plan, a lot of details must be taken care of to make that happen. That is why it is so important to visit with the Talent Search advisor or school counselor to make sure that all the details like financial aid, housing, and registering for orientation are finalized. Don't wait until the last minute to begin planning. With a good plan, anything is possible and that is when dreams are realized.



# Student Spotlight: Bre'Asia

- Thip Phichith, Program Educational Advisor/ACT-SAT Coordinator

Bre'Asia is a sophomore attending Southeast High School. After she graduates in 2025, Bre'Asia plans to go to Cowley Community College. After finishing her two years at Cowley, she will attend WSU to pursue a degree in social work. In the future, Bre'Asia would like to own a foster care agency. In her spare time, Bre'Asia enjoys helping people, reading, and volunteering. She keeps herself occupied by participating in numerous clubs, including JROTC and student government, and hanging out with her close circle of friends.



## New Program Advisor

- Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist



Suresh Menon is the new Mentoring-Career Coordinator/Program Educational Advisor for the WSU TRIO Talent Search Program. Menon graduated with a master's degree in sports management from WSU in 2010. He also has a master's in human resource development (1995) and a bachelor's in communication (1993) from Pittsburg State University. Menon has worked in the fitness industry for the last 24 years. "It has helped me bring a difference to the lives of many individuals. I want to continue to make a difference. The opportunity to work for an organization that strives to help individuals pursue a life that is filled with opportunities and become the best version of themselves would be a fulfilling mission for me." Menon serves West High School and Hamilton Middle School, as well as walk-ins from East High School. He can be reached at [suresh.menon@wichita.edu](mailto:suresh.menon@wichita.edu) or 316.978.6756.



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

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After students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the colleges selected on their application will receive their information in a Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR will help each college determine how much financial aid they can offer. The college will then create an awards package detailing the scholarships, grants, work study and federal loans available to them. Each college may offer a different financial aid package, so it is good to compare offers. For federal loans, students can decide how much they would like to accept. It is highly recommended that students only borrow what they NEED to cover educational costs since they will pay back more than they borrowed after interest accrues. Students who need help understanding their financial aid award letter can reach out to their TRIO Talent Search advisor.

Here are some useful terms to know when deciding what aid to accept:

**Cost of Attendance (COA)** - how much each school year will cost, usually including tuition and fees, books, dorms and meal plans, school supplies, transportation, and other costs (such as a laptop).

**Expected Family Contribution (EFC)** - how much the family is expected to pay towards the student's education based on the tax information entered on the FAFSA.

**COA – EFC = Net Cost** – This is the amount students will pay towards their educational expenses.

**Scholarships** – FREE money that students do not have to pay back

**Grants** – FREE money that does not need to be paid back UNLESS the degree is not completed

**Loans** – Money borrowed and HAVE TO PAY BACK with interest

# Program Objective Results for 2021-2022

- Mani Souriya, Associate Director/Statistician



In grant year 2021-2022, the program served 1,132 students, 826 (73%) of them were low-income and potential first-generation college students. The TRIO Talent Search program measured student progress for secondary school persistence, secondary school graduation, secondary school graduation with rigorous program of study, postsecondary education enrollment, and postsecondary attainment. An annual performance report to the U.S. Department of Education will be submitted in the coming weeks. To determine secondary school persistence, data was collected from student transcripts or from school verification. Graduation data was verified by the commencement program, while transcripts were analyzed to identify student completion of rigorous programs of study. The students' postsecondary educational status was verified by the National Student Clearinghouse. The analysis of the program objectives revealed that the program achieved the substantial progress requirements of the U.S. Department of Education. The table below illustrates the results for each program objective.

Program Objectives	Total number of students	# Attained	Percentage	Objective %	# Required for Substantial Progress	Substantial Progress (≥ 60%)	Status
Secondary School Persistence	1,023	1,003	98%	98%	602	1,003/602=167%	Objective Met
Secondary School Graduation	109	103	94%	80%	52	103/52=198%	Objective Met
Secondary School Graduation with Rigorous Program of Study	109	17	16%	25%	16	17/16=106%	Objective Met
Postsecondary Education Enrollment	103	53	51%	55%	34	53/34=156%	Objective Met
Postsecondary Attainment (15-16 Cohort)	110	47	42%	45%	30	47/30=157%	Objective Met

# Preparing for High School with an Eye on College

- Stephanie Haynes, Middle School Director



Eighth graders, it is time to start thinking about going to high school with an eye on college.

There are certain requirements to get into Wichita State, University of Kansas, K-State, Fort Hays, Emporia State, and Pittsburg State. When selecting classes, be sure to take the right courses to increase the odds of being admitted to college. The classes should include four units of math, three units of social studies, three units of science, and one year of a foreign language such as Spanish. Keeping grades up to maintain a GPA of at least a 2.50 or above is important too. Questions about high school can be directed to a TRIO Talent Search advisor or the school counselor.

*"Develop a passion for learning, if you do, you will never cease to grow."*

- - Anthony J. D'Angelo

# Calendar Events

## MISSION STATEMENT

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.

## TRIO Talent Search

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Wichita, KS 67260-0096  
Office: 316.978.3127 | Fax: 316.978.3527  
<https://www.wichita.edu/talentsearch>

## December 2022

12/01 | Newman Campus Visit  
12/11 | ACT Test  
12/16-1/03 | USD 259 Winter  
Recess (NO SCHOOL)  
12/25 | Christmas Day  
12/31 | New Year's Eve

## January 2023

1/04 | USD 259 Reopens  
1/16 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
(NO SCHOOL)

## February 2023

2/11 | ACT Test  
2/14 | Valentine's Day  
2/17 | District Inservice Day  
(NO SCHOOL)  
2/20 | President's Day  
(NO SCHOOL)

### 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.

### Notice of Funding:

TRIO Talent Search is 100% funded by the United States Department of Education and is hosted by WSU. Funding for 2022-2023 is \$646,284.



## Program Staff

**Clockwise: Mani Souriya**, Associate Director/Statistician; **Stephanie Haynes**, Middle School Director; **Thip Phichith**, Program Educational Advisor/ACT-SAT Coordinator; **Emily Roets-Estevez**, Program Educational Advisor/Financial Literacy Coordinator; **Suresh Menon**, Program Educational Advisor/Mentoring-Career Coordinator; **Sharon K. Robertson**, Administrative Specialist; and **Larry Ramos**, Executive Director