



TRIO Talent Search

2013-2014

Annual Report



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Message from the Director: Larry Ramos



It is with great excitement to share our annual report for 2013-2014. The program is in its 38th year at Wichita State, opening doors for low income and potential first generation college students to the wide array of educational opportunities that await them. Once again, the results produced by the program are exemplary. Despite operating on mandatory cuts to our funding due to sequestration, the staff managed to serve over 1,000 students, including a high number of seniors (212). Well over 80 percent of these seniors were assisted by the staff to enroll in postsecondary for the first time in fall 2014. This level of success is indicative of the determination and passion that the staff maintains for the students. A significant amount of pride is felt by the staff for the results achieved.

For only the second time in the last 13 years, a higher percentage of Talent Search graduates enrolled in four-year postsecondary institutions than two-year or proprietary institutions. It is well-known that the program prepares students for postsecondary education with the intent that students will receive a degree. More career and job opportunities exist for people who possess a four year degree. With that in mind, the Talent Search counselors are effective in building the confidence of students to apply and enroll in four year institutions.

The Middle School Summer Enrichment Program, supported in part by a College Access Challenge Grant from the Kansas Board of Regents, continues to draw interest from many parts of the city. Headed up by Middle School Director Stephanie Haynes, the summer program had another banner year. Readers will enjoy perusing through that section of this report.

The program is grateful to former staff members Olivia Graves and J. Logan Stork for their years of service to the program. Many thanks for the support from President John Bardo and Vice President for Student Affairs Wade Robinson. The program reports to Associate Vice President for Special Programs Deltha Q. Colvin. Colvin has responsibility for nine TRIO programs, three Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, the Office of Disability Services, the Homework Assistance Program, and nine College Access Challenge Grants at Wichita State. Her leadership and vision sustain the programs and make Wichita State one of the premier institutions that hosts these programs.

Program Description

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

For the 2013-2014 academic year, Talent Search was awarded funding in the amount of \$486,997 from the U.S. Department of Education. The program was awarded an additional grant of \$140,000 from the Kansas Board of Regents to support the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program, increase the number and scope of campus visits during the year, offer additional workshops on financial literacy and college entrance exams. Finally, the Kansas Department of Education awarded the program a grant in the amount of \$1,507 for a summer food service program, which provided a nutritious breakfast to students attending the Summer Enrichment Program.

The program is housed on the Wichita State main campus. The program employed a full-time director, associate director/statistician, middle school director, three educational development assistants, 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 professional staff development, equipment, supplies and other operating expenditures to allow the program to better serve its students.

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 and pursue postsecondary education.

Program Goals and Objectives

Program Goals and Objectives

In 2011, the program was given the option of using the approved goals and objectives as stated in the grant proposal or adopting the mandatory program objectives developed by the U.S. Department of Education. The program opted to respond to the mandatory objectives and identify percentages based on the approved grant.

Secondary School Promotion:

Ninety 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 99 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 100 percent

Secondary School Graduation: (Rigorous Secondary School Program of Study)

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

The program achieved 34 percent

Postsecondary 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 83 percent

Postsecondary Education Enrollment:

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 will be required to report on this objective in 2016.

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' educational success, 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

Counselors advised students on rigorous pre-college curriculum to ensure postsecondary eligibility. A month-long summer program on high school preparation assisted eighth grade students in making a successful transition from middle school to high school. Graduating seniors were advised on 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

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. 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. The program held a day-long workshop titled FAFSA Finish Line. The workshop was held on a district in-service day, so students and their parents could attend the workshop for help with completing the FAFSA.

Assistance in preparing for college entrance examinations

Program staff advised students on preparing for the ACT and SAT exams. The program's 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. For the third year, Talent Search helped sponsor the district-wide ACT workshops with USD 259 and the Wichita State University Counseling and Testing Center. Students were administered the ACT ENGAGE to help assess students' self-reported psychosocial attributes, determine their levels of academic risk, and identify potential interventions. Counselors reviewed the survey results with students to help them achieve success.

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. This year, Talent Search sponsored two students to attend the National Student Leadership Congress in Washington, DC.

Tutorial services and Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) for middle school students

Tutoring and homework assistance was provided to program students. The program maintained a staff of five tutors to supplement learning for math and other subjects. During the summer, 75 students were selected for the program's Summer Enrichment Program (SEP). The SEP was held on the WSU campus and students attended classes for math, language arts, theatre arts, science, financial literacy/life skills and computer technology. During the SEP, students took the ACT ENGAGE survey and discussed results with educational development assistants to form future study plans. Students attended educational field trips and campus visits. Motivational speakers were invited to challenge students. At the end of the summer program, students participated in a talent showcase and awards and recognition ceremony.

Guidance on secondary school re-entry or entry to other programs leading to a secondary school diploma or its equivalent

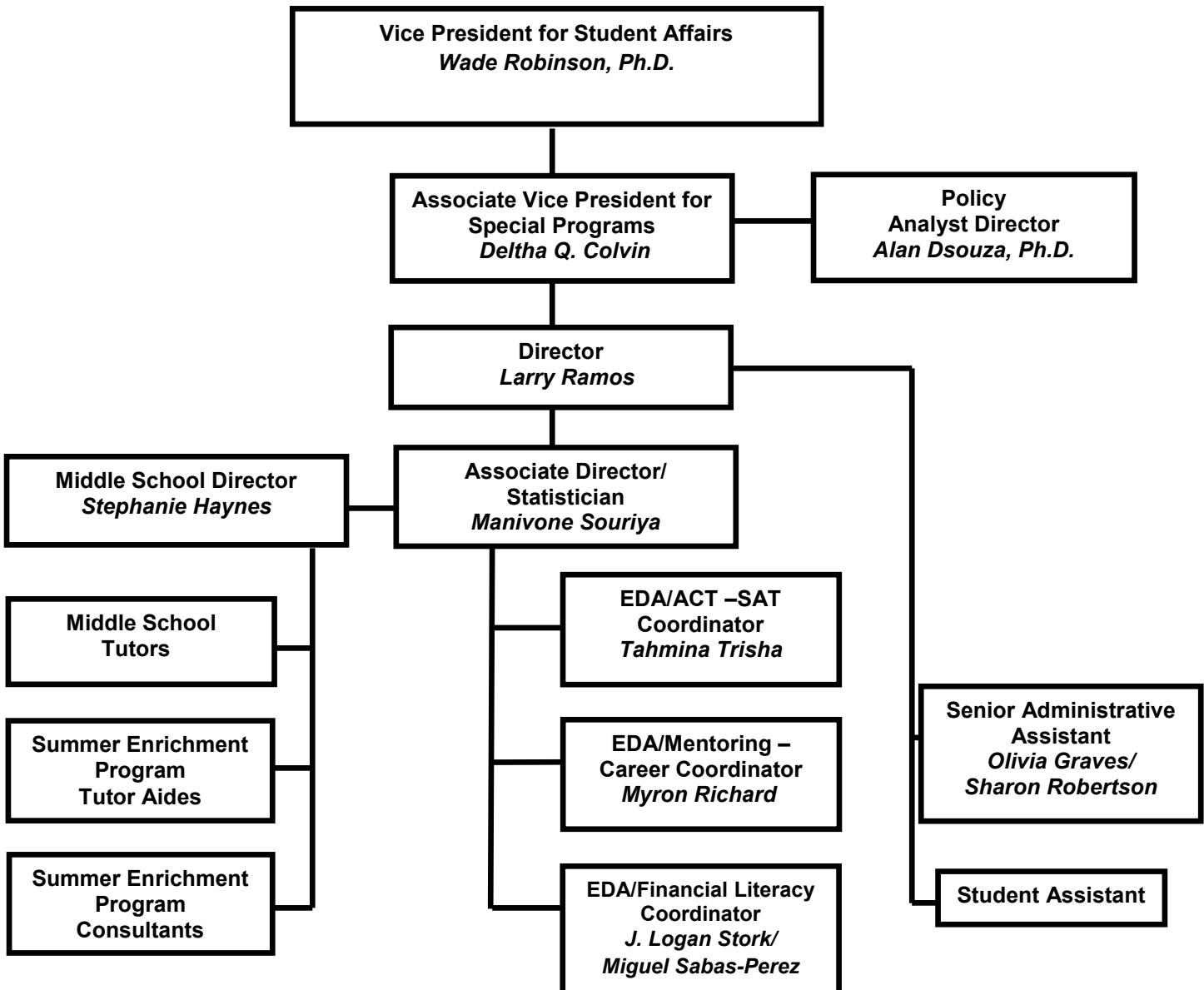
Counselors assisted students who have dropped out of high school to re-enter school or enroll in an alternative education program. The purpose of this support was to assist students in receiving their high school diploma, high school equivalency, or GED so that they could become eligible to apply to 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.

Organizational Chart



Program Staff



Back Row: (left to right) Sharon Robertson, Mani Souriya, Tahmina Trisha, and Stephanie Haynes
Front Row: (left to right): Miguel Sabas-Perez, Myron Richard, and Larry Ramos

Talent Search Staff:

Larry Ramos,
Director

Manivone Souriya,
Associate Director/Statistician

Stephanie Haynes,
Middle School Director

Tahmina Trisha,
Educational Development
Assistant/ACT-SAT
Coordinator

Myron Richard,
Educational Development
Assistant/Mentoring-Career
Coordinator

J. Logan Stork (not pictured),
Miguel Sabas-Perez,
Educational Development
Assistant/Financial Aid
Coordinator

Olivia Graves (not pictured),
Sharon Robertson,
Senior Administrative Assistant

Year at a Glance

Talent Search participates in various educational and cultural activities. The timeline highlights some of the year's activities.

SEPTEMBER



College Jump Start

OCTOBER



Computer Lab

NOVEMBER



Campus Visit to
University of Kansas

DECEMBER



Campus Visit to
Langston University

JANUARY



Resource Library

FEBRUARY



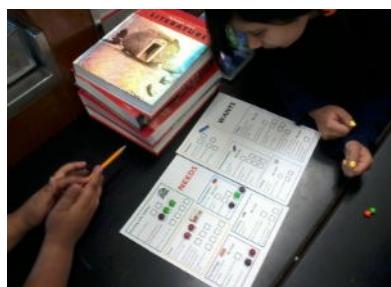
FASFA Finish Line

MARCH



Campus Visit to Texas

APRIL



Financial Literacy Assistance

MAY



ACT Prep Workshop

JUNE



Talent Showcase

JULY



Summer Enrichment Program

AUGUST



College Admissions Assistance

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- ⇒ **College Readiness Activities**
- ⇒ **Special Programs**
- ⇒ **Professional Development**
- ⇒ **Program Statistics**
- ⇒ **Program Evaluations**
- ⇒ **A Movie in Pictures**

This CD features an audio introduction



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TRIO Talent Search/Project Discovery is 100 percent funded by the United States Department of Education and is hosted by Wichita State University. Funds for 2013-2014 were \$486,997.