

# *The Blueprint for a Lifetime of Success*

## Newsletter for TRIO Day 2006



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TRIO Day, February 15, 2006 was a successful celebration with over 200 persons in attendance. Students, public school and university personnel, and adult participants attended informative sessions, gained information about the programs, and shared their thoughts.

Mr. Luis Ibarra, keynote speaker, motivated, entertained and challenged students to think about their present and future, make choices for themselves, and stand for something for which they would be proud. We appreciate the welcome given by Dr. Ron Kopita, Vice President for Campus Life and University Relations, to the University and TRIO Day.

The program's directors thank all who participated and contributed to making TRIO Day 2006 a success. Evaluation results showed 94.7% of participants agreed that the celebration was well organized, and 91.3% said the celebration was beneficial to them.

A special thanks to the staff for marketing the successes of their programs and informing our stakeholders of their "Blueprint for Success." Finally, a big thank you for the leadership of the committee chairs (Ybarra, Haynes, deSilva, Ervin, Holt-Fields, Lewis, Landrum) for leading us to a successful event.

**TRIO DAY Celebration 2007**  
**February 21, 2007**  
**Wichita State University**  
**Hughes Metropolitan Complex**

TRIO programs, Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP and the Office of Disability Services successfully hosted National TRIO Day on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at the Wichita State University Metropolitan Complex. Two hundred and forty-one (241) students, administrators, and special guests participated in the event. The theme of the event was "The Blueprint for a Lifetime of Success."

The day consisted of special tracks: middle school, high school, adult, and disability awareness. Speakers for each of the tracks led sessions designed to inspire, motivate, and educate the audience. For the first time, a Special Programs Fair was held where participants could learn of the opportunities that each of the sponsoring programs provides to students.

Last fall, four committees were formed to construct each of the tracks. The High School Track committee consisted of Heather Ybarra (chair), Vic Chavez, Jerris Martin, and Becky Ghanoui. The Middle School Track was comprised of Stephanie Haynes (chair), Mark Harmon, and Charles Tucker. The Adult Track Committee included Dr. Deema de Silva, Frances Ervin and LaWanda Holt-Fields (co-chairs), while the Disability Awareness Track was comprised of Grady Landrum and Martha Lewis (co-chairs). Other committees included registration and nametags, transportation, and facilities.

Students were transported from their schools to the Metroplex by bus. When they arrived, they were escorted into Lowe Auditorium where a DVD showing the special programs at WSU was shown. The DVD highlighted students and staff. At approximately 9:55am, the students were escorted to their first sessions. On the following pages is a summary of each of the tracks.

# TRIO Day Wrap UP

## Middle School Track

Students from Allison, Brooks, Coleman, Curtis, Hamilton, Mead and Marshall middle schools attended the Middle School Track sessions. Larry Ramos, TRIO Talent Search/Project Discovery gave welcoming remarks and showed the video "Reasons for TRIO."

Four of Wichita's finest were part of a panel that



Teresa Lovelady speaking to middle school students.

concentrated on careers in social services. The panel consisted of Brian A. Black, President and CEO of the Urban League of the Mid Plains; Teresa Lovelady, Coordinator for the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas-Pathways/Paths for Kids Program; Margot Breckfield, health care professional/university Professor/motivational speaker, and Edith Knox, the Executive Director of the Knox Center Inc.

The I. C. Hope Duck was a special guest provided by the Mental Health Association to talk with the students about improving self-esteem. The I. C. Hope Duck had students participate in the presentation, which the students enjoyed.

The morning ended with a drawing for prizes. Several GEAR UP and TRIO Talent Search/Project Discovery students won. Lunch followed and the students returned to their schools after the Luis Ibarra keynote address.

## High School Track

The showcase of the TRIO and GEAR UP High School participants' track was a day filled with intermingling with TRIO alumni. High school conference participants attended three concurrent sessions throughout the morning. The concurrent sessions consisted of a panel of TRIO high school program alumni who are current college students, TRIO alumni who are currently in the work force, and a TRIO Fair.

The TRIO Fair consisted of representation from nine of the special programs housed at Wichita



Educational Talent Search table at the TRIO Fair.

State University (WSU). The panel of the current college students consisted of Natalie McLaurian, Philip Pettis, and Kaci Tucker. Natalie McLaurian, a Wichita Heights graduate and current WSU sophomore is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and a Talent Search alumni. McLaurian was awarded the Linwood Sexton Scholarship providing her with full tuition, fee, books, and on-campus housing. Pettis, a Wichita Northeast graduate, WSU sophomore, and Upward Bound Math/Science alumni, is active with the WSU band, choir and other community ensembles. Tucker, a Wichita Heights graduate, WSU sophomore, and Talent Search alumni is active in the community as well

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# TRIO Day Wrap UP



College students speak to TRIO students during session. as focusing on studying Spanish abroad.

The TRIO alumni panel consisted of Solomon Adair, Crishel Kline, Christa Platt, and Marc Davis. Adair, a Wichita Southeast and WSU graduate, was an active member of Talent Search and is currently a business owner through Primerica. Kline, a Student Support Service and McNair Scholars Program alumni, is currently employed as a personal trainer for Fitness 2000. Platt, a WSU graduate, McNair Scholars Program alumni, is a staff member in the Office of Multicultural Affairs at WSU. Davis, McNair Scholars Program alumni, WSU graduate, and Washburn School of Law graduate, is currently practicing in downtown Wichita.

High School students were given the opportunity to network with college-based programs. The panel members gave the participants the opportunity to ask specific questions about past and present achievements and mistakes. The panel members, who were only a few years older than the audience, provided a good example of college life. The panelist provided a vast amount of experience, knowledge, and a strong dedication to TRIO.

## Disability Awareness Track

The Disability Awareness Track entitled “Developing the Awareness of Faculty about the Difficulties Students with Disabilities Face” was a hands-on training session designed to increase the awareness of Faculty concerning accessibility and accommodations for students with disabilities and to enhance students with disabilities’ participation in higher education. Participants took part in a computer based training session that challenged their understanding of disabilities and accommodations, and higher education.

The session began at 10:00 a.m. as Mr. Grady Landrum, Director, Office of Disability Services, explained the procedures for taking the on-line survey. The survey took approximately ninety minutes to complete. Each participant had a personal laptop computer set-up for use to take the survey. Ten faculty and staff took the on-line survey. Throughout the session, Mr. Landrum and Ms. Martha Lewis provided guidance to and answered participants’ questions.

At the end of the session, each participant was given an evaluation to complete, which was gather up by Dr. Alan D’souza after the lunch presentation .

# TRIO Day Wrap UP

## Adult Track

The Adult Learner/Professional Track was a component of the National TRIO Day Celebration coordinated by Dr. Deema deSilva (Student Support Services), LaWanda Holt-Fields (McNair Scholars Program), and Frances Ervin (Educational Opportunity Centers Program) and was targeted to adult learners and professionals. Members of the Adult Track Committee were pleased to welcome agency representatives and community representatives from Wichita, Sedgwick County and Butler County. Inclusive of attendees were members of the Educational Opportunity Centers Program Advisory Board. A hospitality room provided an opportunity for the attendees to meet TRIO Day presenters, campus and program administrators.

This year, the Adult Track offered three workshops. Each workshop lasted one hour in length. The first workshop, presented by Mr. Luis Ibarra, was motivational in essence and served to inspire the adult educational professionals. The second presentation was by Ms. Diane Glass. Ms. Glass gave information relative to the state of Adult Education in Kansas and implications for local programming. At lunch time, the Adult Track attendees transitioned to the Annual TRIO Day Luncheon where Mr. Luis Ibarra was the featured speaker. After the luncheon, the third and final workshop which reviewed research on nontraditional adult women was presented by Ms. Salyi Vu.

Each Adult Track presenter was presented with a certificate of appreciation. Thirty-two individuals attended the Adult Track sessions and certificates of attendance were provided to all attendees. Additionally, each attendee was asked to complete an evaluation of the TRIO Day activities.

Mr. Luis Ibarra, CEO Friendly House was the featured Adult Track speaker. Mr. Ibarra began



Luis Ibarra speaking during his Adult Track Seminar.

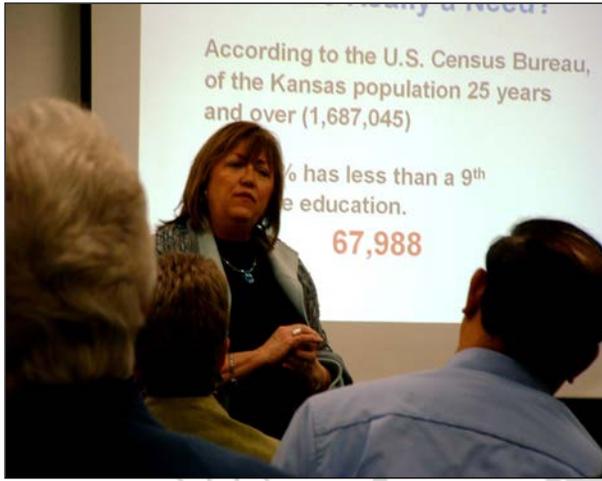
the presentation by sharing information on his center, Friendly House (Phoenix, Arizona), stating that it was one of the largest Latino organizations in the county. His purpose, during this presentation, was to provide insight, from his point of view, on what motivates a person to become a success. During his presentation, Mr. Ibarra worked to inspire the attendees, the majority of them currently involved in adult education efforts. Interwoven in his presentation was Mr. Ibarra's personal life story that contributed to an understanding of how he became motivated to become a CEO.

The next session was entitled "Adult Education and its Implications for TRIO Programs" the presenter was Diane Glass, Director Adult Education, Kansas Board of Regents

Ms. Glass began her presentation by sharing more about her professional entry into the field of adult education. She remarked that funding has remained flat for adult education and commented briefly on the No Child Left Behind national agenda. Ms. Glass emphasized ways in which expectations of adults participating in adult education courses have changed. For example,

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# TRIO Day Wrap UP



Diane Glass presenting to Adult Track attendees.

she stated that adults who can not or will not devote a minimum of eight hours toward adult basic education courses are being advised not to enroll in courses. Ms. Glass stated that reviews of how adults pursue their basic education shows that individuals who do not consistently attend class and study usually make no gains in the programs. Therefore, according to Ms. Glass, the adult stays in the mode of having to relearn course materials. She also stated that women in abuse situations, especially where the spouse or significant other opposes their education, are advised to not enroll until they have their domestic situation under control.

Ms. Glass provided a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the work done by the Kansas Adult Education Centers, including highlighting the need for adult education, participant status and performance outcomes. Participants were provided handouts on Adult Learner enrollment statistics for 2004-2005 which also included information on learner characteristics (gender and learner employment status at time of enrollment).

The final session entitled "Counseling Nontraditional Women in Higher Education" was presented by Salyi Vu, Program Specialist, TRIO EOC Program.

Ms. Vu's research addressed the trend of Nontraditional women in higher education and implications for programs serving this population. She began by reviewing the definition of a nontraditional student and their reasons for returning to college. After sharing the prevalence of nontraditionals, Ms. Vu shared information on issues and concerns of nontraditional students. According to Ms. Vu, of the 71% of the college dropouts, 50% never return. Also, she shared some research that indicates that single moms do better in college than most people would expect. Ms. Vu worked to help professionals understand the counseling needs of nontraditional women. She spoke on supportive vs. enabling, career advising and guidance, and balancing women's



Salyi Vu making her presentation at TRIO Day.

moral development with career advancement. Near the end of the workshop, Ms. Vu offered a Practical Practice Matrix for assisting nontraditional women students in higher education. Workshop attendees were invited to work in groups to complete the matrix which included new ideals and practices to implement.

# TRIO Day Wrap UP

## Luncheon and Keynote Speaker

After the morning sessions, a luncheon was held in the Metroplex Gymnasium. Michael Imbert, Student Support Services tutor, was the emcee. He welcomed the audience and proceeded to introduce the TRIO, GEAR UP, and Office of Disability Services directors. He also recognized special guests in the audience. After the meal, Alejandro Millan, Upward Bound Wichita Prep participant, introduced the keynote speaker, Luis Ibarra.

Luis Ibarra is the President and CEO of the Friendly House in Phoenix, AZ. The Friendly House provides a number of important social services to low income families in the Phoenix and surrounding areas. Ibarra began his remarks by telling the students about his upbringing and how he got to be where he is today. His mixture of Mexican and Yaqui heritage has provided him a unique and rich cultural background. In many of the stories that he told, he used Spanish to emphasize meaning.

One such story was when he was asked to serve as a motivational speaker to high school dropouts and gang members. He said it was an experience he never will forget. While the group was rough and gave him a difficult time, he found a way to reach them. He asked those students to consider having a newborn baby. He asked them to think about the age it would be “okay” for their baby to join a gang, have sex, use drugs, and start drinking. The responses, he said, were like most parents (“never” and “not for a long time”). He proceeded to ask them why they were doing those things even though they didn’t want their children doing them. In the



Luis Ibarra speaking during the TRIO Day Luncheon.

end, he hoped that the students would think about their lives being as precious as a newborn baby.

In his final remarks, he asked everyone to participate in a group activity. He actually made it rain inside the gymnasium with the help of all the participants. The audience rubbed their hands together, snapped their fingers, and patted their thighs to make it rain. The noise in the gymnasium captured what a thunderstorm might sound like. It was a wonderful way to end a very inspiring and motivating speech.

After his speech, the middle school students were led back to their respective busses and on to their schools. Ibarra stayed and answered questions from the audience until he had to return to the airport for an early afternoon flight back to Phoenix. The high school students remained for a short time to complete evaluations before they were also transported back to their schools. Overall, the 2006 version of National TRIO Day was a huge success.

# TRIO Day Evaluation

**Introduction:** The execution of a program can be compared to a swan sailing in the pond. While its feet are doing intense activity in balancing and keeping it afloat, all that the observer can see is the smooth glide over the surface of the water. The National TRIO Day celebration on February 15, 2006 was such a glide made possible because of the extensive planning and efforts by the TRIO, Office of Disability Services (ODS) and the Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP (KK@GU) family. The evaluation of this celebration was conducted by empowering the audience to comment on the sessions organized and presented, with the underlying themes of “learning outcomes” both for the participants as well as the organizers.

**Methodology:** The evaluations consisted of response sheets consisting of both Likert-like items and open ended items customized according to each of the four tracks presented during the day. The surveys consisted of two sections: one - comments on the general organization and effect of the celebration, and two - specific items on the sessions presented in the track that the participants attended. While the Likert-like data was analyzed using descriptive statistics, the open-ended questions were studied to analyze subtext of the participants’ responses. Over 200 people (both students and adults) attended the program (N = 241), and 112 responded to the evaluations (n = 112). Chi-square tests run on the responses showed no significant differences among the groups such as males and females, students and adults, etc. So the findings and conclusions were comprehensively presented.

**Middle School Track:** The middle school track was well received, especially with 66.7% respondents responding favorably to the “Reasons for TRIO” video and 89.4% acknowledging increase in their awareness of careers in the social services profession. About 83% found it beneficial to be interactive with the speakers in small groups. Nevertheless, the star of the track was the I.C. Duck as 91.5% found it appealing, and 93.6%

recorded that the duck conveyed a message relevant to their age-group. The track evaluations showed that middle school students liked to interact with speakers in a more informal manner, and alternative methods of communication, including games and other innovative means can establish rapport with the age group effectively.

**High School Track:** The high school students were offered three alternating sessions in small groups so that they could closely interact with the speakers. The TRIO Alumni Session panelists succeeded in going beyond TRIO contributions to their life, and communicated to the participants the effective use of career-building, networking, and career planning (98.1% agreed). The Current TRIO College Students’ panel also succeeded in sharing with the participants critical strategies to succeed in college (97.9% agreed). The TRIO/ODS/KK@GU display fair (introduced for the first time) also was a success: 96% responded that it shared valuable information with them, and 94% felt that it was a motivating factor for their TRIO participation. Similarly, 98% of the respondents found the post-luncheon interaction with Mr. Ibarra as productive.

**Disability Awareness Track:** The Disability Awareness Track was a preview of a future faculty/staff training program to increase their awareness of challenges faced by students with disabilities. Most (over 90%) of the participants found satisfactory use of technology and interaction during the session. All the participants (100%) noted that the training increased their sensitivity to disability challenges. All of them also expressed not only interest, but also that such training be recommended for other professionals and staff. The track thus performed an educational function.

**Adult Track:** Responding to the three sessions during the adult-track, all of the participants expressed their extreme satisfaction and motivation

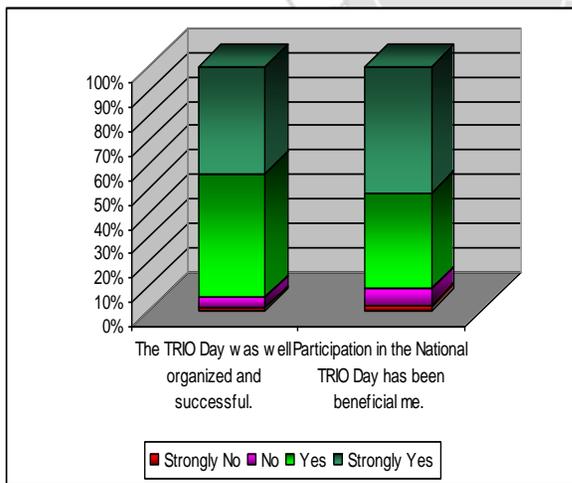
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# TRIO Day Evaluation

from listening to Mr. Ibarra’s presentation for the adults. Similarly, all the participants found value in Ms. Dianne Glass’s presentation of adult education issues. Participants of Ms. Salyi Vu’s session also found her template to assist non-traditional women in their educational ambitions as useful. The adult track thus proved to be a very instructional and content based session for all the participants (100%).

**Luncheon Speech:** The luncheon speaker is central to National TRIO day. The 2006 celebration participants celebrated their success by the extremely positive responses given on this session. About 85% of the participants found Mr. Luis Ibarra’s speech motivational, and 91.2% declared that the speech definitely made them realize the importance of education for long-term success.

**Overall Impression:** Two items specifically focused on assessing the overall impact of the National TRIO Day celebration. As seen from the graph, 94.7% of participants agreed that the celebration was well organized, and 91.3% recorded that the celebration was beneficial to them.



**Qualitative Responses:** One specific question asked of all the participants was to mention what they learned from the program. Besides a few

particular aspects such as the individual learning outcomes from the sessions, the dominating theme from the responses was that “No matter what, STAY in school,” and “Pursue college education.”

**Conclusion:** The National TRIO Day as a one-day event is a culmination of several months of planning and reflects the spirit of the programs. When a first generation low-income student participant records on its evaluation sheet that “College education is cool” and “If I get a college degree, I will get a better life,” it can be claimed that the message of TRIO has been communicated. Somehow, the evaluation of the celebration is incomplete without evaluating the individual programs that lead to higher education. At this stage, all that could be done, was to be aware of the swan’s glide on the water albeit with some obstacles and challenges. The destination of the swan’s glide is another evaluation story.

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