

TRIO Day 2014



Deltha Q. Colvin, *Associate Vice President for Campus Life and TRIO Director, Wichita State University*

The Office of Special Programs (OSP) is looking forward to the TRIO Day Celebration on February 13, 2014.

The celebration is an opportunity to showcase the successes of TRIO, GEAR UP, ODS programs and acknowledge those who have helped the programs be successful.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the legacy of Deema DeSilva, Ph.D., director of Student Support Services. DeSilva has tirelessly worked in the Student Support Services (SSS) and TRIO Programs to ensure their success and growth. DeSilva is the longest standing TRIO director and advocate for the programs. A national and international figure, DeSilva is highly respected and accomplished. It is with great pride that she has successful proposals, books, research, manuals, presentations, and numerous other documents that the university can be proud to share. The TRIO, GEAR UP and ODS family salute Deema DeSilva, Ph.D., for her accomplishments, successes, and leadership.

Wichita State University is honored that the speaker and honoree for the National TRIO Day celebration is Linda Byrd-Johnson Ph.D., senior director, Student Services Area, Office of Postsecondary Education for the United States Department of Education. Byrd-Johnson has distinguished herself with the university for over 30 years. She was the program officer for the TRIO programs at WSU early in her career. A legend in the TRIO community, WSU is excited about her visit to the city.

The TRIO, GEAR UP and ODS staffs thank the students served by the programs for their commitment and work to make their goals a

success and showcase the success of the programs. Many thanks to the staffs for their commitment and dedication to a profession that has winners daily. TRIO works and the staffs and students are the reason why. To the directors of the programs: They are the power and strength of the programs administered for the success of students and adults. They are the glue that hold the programs together. They are the reason why students and staff can say "TRIO, GEAR UP, and ODS Works!"

The program staffs hope to see many people in attendance to celebrate National TRIO Day 2014. Thank You!

Office of Special Programs

Alan Josin Dsouza, Ph.D.,
*Policy Analyst Director, Office of
Special Programs*



Hercilia Thompson,
*Administrative Officer, Office of the
Associate Vice President for
Campus Life*

Student Profiles



Upward Bound Wichita Prep

Tu Huyen Nguyen joined Upward Bound Wichita Prep (UBWP) when she was a freshman at East High School. Now a senior, she has maintained an impressive 4.00 grade point average

throughout her high school career. Tu Huyen has taken full advantage of all the opportunities offered her through the Upward Bound program. This, combined with the fact that she is a highly motivated student with a well-formulated plan for college and beyond, makes her future outlook very bright indeed.

Tu Huyen is extremely caring and compassionate. In fact, her goal to become a dentist was spurred by an accident suffered by her younger sister, which impacted the appearance of her teeth. Tu Huyen says she intends to be her “superhero” and help restore her confidence in her smile. In addition, she has spent many hours volunteering for Inter-Faith Ministries Homeless Shelter, Botanica Gardens, Kansas Children’s Service League, Habitat for Humanity, Trees for Life, Operation Holiday and many other organizations during the UBWP Saturday sessions.

Adding to her stellar academic career, Tu Huyen exhibits strong leadership and interpersonal communication skills. She has honed these skills over the past three years through participation in National TRIO Day celebrations, the UBWP summer residential program, tutoring and homework assistance, and college campus visits. Because of her determination, work ethic, and lofty goals for herself, the UBWP staff is extremely proud to recognize Tu Huyen Nguyen as the UBWP TRIO student of the year.



Talent Search

Bishop Rice has been a TRIO Talent Search participant for three years. She first joined the program as a sixth grader while attending Brooks Technology and Arts Magnet Middle School.

Bishop indicated that she has been impacted by TRIO in many ways. “It (the program) has been very helpful with improvement in my classes such as math and science.” During the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program held on the Wichita State campus, Bishop said she acquired new skills that provided her information and knowledge that is useful to her throughout the academic school year. Bishop said she enjoys being in TRIO because of the “fun and exciting things during the summer program, like going on the field trips, the talent show, and what is taught in classes, especially math.”

Bishop’s involvement doesn’t stop with TRIO. Bishop has been on the honor roll all three years in middle school, received student of the month for character, former sixth grade leadership participant, is in advanced art, honors choir and performs in musicals at Brooks.

During her spare time, Bishop enjoys drawing and art, singing, acting, playing with her two dogs – Jackie and Skipper, and hanging out with friends. Her favorite movie is the *Hunger Games* and takes pleasure in reading novels from Veronica Roth, author of *Divergent*. Bishop adores music artist Taylor Swift and loves listening to pop music. Bishop plans to pursue a career as a marine biologist but is uncertain as to what college she would like to attend.

Student Profiles



Student Support Services

Charity Lowe is a graduate of Wichita State University with a degree in business administration and minors in accounting, finance, and management. Currently,

Charity is seeking a finance position in the banking industry where she can gain experience and expand her knowledge in financial relations. Eventually, she would like to become a bank examiner.

Motivation has never been a problem with Charity. More often, she took on more than she could handle. She came to the realization that she is not Superwoman and that she could not push herself beyond the limits of trying to accomplish all that had to be done in a 24-hour time frame. She learned to plan and organize daily events in a manner that minimized her anxieties and helped to prevent her from becoming over-stressed. As a fulltime mother and college student, Charity sought the help of Student Support Services (SSS) five years ago to build her confidence as a student. The staff continually encouraged her to keep working towards graduation and improve her social skills.

Charity received one-on-one advising and mentoring, tutoring for business calculus, used the technology lab for printing and internet access, borrowed text books, and received multiple scholarships.

Her advice to incoming freshmen students would be to get to know some of their SSS peers because many students are going through some of the same situations. She believes that life is a journey, so it is best to encourage one another. Hard work, commitment, persistence and the Student Support Services can aid in reaching success.



Office of Disability Services

Jon Brooks is a senior at Wichita State University. A long-term goal of his is to become an innovative, electrical engineer with specialization in renewable energy. Born 12 weeks premature,

which came with many obstacles, caused his education to be challenged. Jon was having trouble learning and inspired his parents to take him for private testing at several places in the early 1990s because the school he was attending kept extending out and then refused testing. After much frustration, it was decided Jon would be homeschooled instead of fighting the smaller school system he attended.

His parents diligently searched for solutions to Jon's learning problems. Some strategies worked, but Jon was always struggling with different aspects of his schooling. Finally, in his teenage years, Jon was diagnosed with severe dyslexia. At that time, he didn't know if obtaining a college education would be possible. However, following high school graduation, Jon was fortunate enough to receive some therapies that eased some of his challenges. Six years after graduating from high school he embraced his chance to fulfill his dream of earning an engineering degree at Wichita State. Thanks to the supportive help and assistance of Disability Support Services at Cowley Community College and Wichita State, Jon is succeeding. "I currently have a 3.91 GPA" Jon reports.

The Office of Disability Services provides Jon with testing assistance to compensate for his dyslexia. He spends most of his time studying and it has paid off very well.

Student Profiles



Upward Bound Math Science

Nikki Allums, a three year TRIO Upward Bound Math Science Center (UBMS) participant, is a junior attending Sumner Academy in Kansas City, KS where she

participates on the tennis and basketball teams. Always a leader, Nikki works hard to build a reputation of success and achievement, both at school and at UBMS.

A participant in the International Baccalaureate Program at Sumner Academy, Nikki's academic acumen is without parallel. She is naturally gifted, but it is her hard work that makes the difference. Her study regimen is the stuff of folklore around the study hall. She is keen on developing colorful and kinetic learning tools and sharing them with friends at tutorials or via Facebook.

It's not enough to say that Nikki is smart or athletic. Those descriptors are true, but not inclusive. Nikki is a woman of faith. Nikki overcame the latest in a string of personal difficulties, the death of her mother. While deeply wounded and suddenly homeless, Nikki rallied to do what she does best—perform in the academic arena. During the entire ordeal Nikki never missed a day of school. When asked why, her response was, "My mama wants me to go to school. It matters even more now."

Upon completion of high school, she plans to attend one of the universities on her top five. She is leaning towards chemistry and plans for a career in the sciences. Nikki is a shining example of what TRIO programs aim to do—take students from good to great!



Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program

Marcus Crawford started college immediately after high school in 1994. He had goals of becoming the first person in his family to get a college degree.

He didn't exactly know what he wanted to do or how he would get there, but he knew he wanted to finish school.

The desire for a bachelor's degree didn't leave him even as he left college without a degree. Marcus continued to go back to school off and on over the next decade. Finally, he decided to get serious and earn a degree. His sister had taken a few classes in college but he was the only one of his siblings who had pursued any serious college work at that point. Neither of his parents had ever attended college.

Recently, Marcus received a Bachelor's in Social Work degree and started the master's program at Wichita State. He plans to pursue a doctoral degree in social work in the future. Marcus is working on a new paper and providing research assistance to another professor in the program. He and his mentor are working on taking his McNair manuscript and dividing it into two papers for publication. His hope is to have one to three published papers prior to starting a Ph.D. program.

Marcus states that "the McNair program helped me discover my love for research and gave me the confidence to pursue an educational path that I never thought was open to me."

Student Profiles



Disability Support Services

Danielle Bryant is a senior at Wichita State University and a participant of TRIO Disability Support Services and the McNair Scholars Program.

In high school she was part of the Upward Bound program in Washington. Danielle is working toward a Bachelor of Arts in General Studies with a concentration in chemistry. She plans to attain a doctorate.

When asked to share about her family, education, and academic experiences, Danielle responded with the following:

“Family is a tricky thing. My family has had its ups and downs, but we’ve always found ourselves and each other no matter what. My Dad was my moral support. He encouraged and complimented me. Through the hard times I’ve found my strength. Even with my disabilities, I refuse to be held back. My two McNair mentors are brilliant and they are my foundation and my basis for knowledge about research and graduate school.

The biggest obstacle I’ve had to face at WSU was money. TRIO DSS was my academic and financial support. Their grant aid has helped bridge my financial gaps when I needed it. I’ve overcome obstacles in my life by doing the best I can and not being afraid to fail. I keep to the things I can control. If I can’t control it then I don’t need to stress about it. I focus on the things I can do and let the universe sort the rest out. My goal of obtaining my degree was always going to be met, it was just a matter of when.”



Educational Opportunity Centers

Emma Chilton had a strong desire to re-enter college. She stated that she wanted to become another distinguished person of her generation with a college degree. In preparation for her college

return, Emma dedicated one summer working with AmeriCorps. Upon successful completion of this service, she was awarded a living stipend and an education award. While working at an AmeriCorps site, Emma heard about the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) program. She signed up for EOC stating that she would need academic assistance after being out of college for several years.

Emma took advantage of workshops, seminars, speakers, and the technology lab/resource center. The EOC staff were valuable resources for her as well. According to Emma, “EOC has changed my life. My program specialist helped me to understand that the race does not go to the swiftest, but to the ones who endure.” In May 2013, Emma received a degree in social work from Wichita State.

Emma is passionate about helping others and giving back to her community. She plans to pursue a masters in social work while she continues to be a change agent for under-resourced communities.

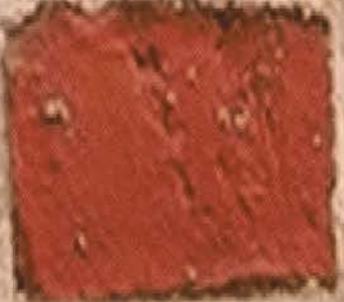
Her days can be quite full, as she works for Mercy, LLC, participates in civic activities such as Community Day at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, feeds the homeless through St. Paul Lutheran Church, and volunteers for Operation Holiday and the Sedgwick County Health Department.

Emma is truly a distinguished person and the program’s TRIO Achiever 2014.

Building the

1964
Upward Bound

1965
Talent Search



Fifty years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and President Lyndon B. Johnson met, defining the War on Poverty.

President Lyndon Johnson and Martin Luther King Jr.

Upward Bound emerged out of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 in response to the administration's War on Poverty. In 1965, Talent Search was created as part of the Higher Education Act. Subsequent programs were established through ammendments to the Higher Education Act.

1968
Student Support Services

1972
Educational Opportunity Centers

1976
Training Program for Federal TRIO Programs



Dr. Ronald. E. McNair

1986
Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program



In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act, "the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities."

President George H.W. Bush

1990
Upward Bound Math/Science

1998
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

National TRIO Legacy



Dr. Walter O. Mason Jr.



Dr. Arnold Mitchem

Dr. Walter O. Mason Jr. was instrumental in the creation and success of TRIO programs. The National Walter O. Mason Jr. Award, the highest award given by Council for Opportunity in Education (COE), was established in his honor. Dr. Arnold Mitchem founded COE, a nonprofit organization dedicated to furthering the expansion of college opportunities throughout the United States.



Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson

Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, senior director for Student Services at the United States Department of Education, will be the keynote speaker at Wichita State's National TRIO Day 2014 Celebration.

Notable TRIO Alumni



Rep. Gwen Moore, IL



Rep. Henry Bonilla, TX



Patrick Ewing

Student Profiles



Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

Teresa Coons is a sophomore at Wichita North High School and has been in Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP since

2010. She has been a very active member of the program and has been able to participate in a variety of activities.

Some of her favorites include going to see the Sea Life Aquarium in Kansas City, visiting the Oklahoma City Memorial, touring KMUW radio studio, and attending the Tallgrass Film Festival this past fall. She also jumps on any college campus visit she can go to. During the summer of 2013, Teresa was able to go on the joint Upward Bound Math/Science and GEAR UP trip to St. Louis. This opened her eyes to life outside of Wichita and she is ready to see more!

After high school, Teresa hopes to find a college somewhere within driving distance of Wichita, but also far enough away that she can see new places. Right now, she wants to study science, but she has a whole list of other options too.

In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with friends, knitting, and taking pictures. She is always up for a new adventure and has a goal of someday being a member of the Jeopardy Clue Crew.



Veterans Upward Bound

As an energetic, enthusiastic, and ambitious youth, Master at Arms Navy veteran Brandon Anthony Warren has all the trappings that make him a successful Veterans Upward Bound

(VUB) participant.

After graduating from Heights High School in 2001, Brandon joined the Navy and has been stationed in San Diego and Japan. While in Japan, he earned the Medal of Distinguished Service for helping those who were involved in the Iraq war.

After four challenging and productive years of service, Brandon left the Navy and was not adapting to a new civilian life. He did not waste time, and immediately signed up with the VUB program to seek postsecondary education opportunities. "The Navy taught me to focus and be disciplined," Brandon says, "to go after that what matters most."

Brandon's successful transition is proven by the fact that he is now in the process of taking the mandatory assessments before he enrolls in school in fall of 2014. He wants to major in counseling and help others by ultimately, making a career as a motivational speaker and writer. In a way, he has already started on his career because he is a great motivator for other VUB participants. His encouraging message for other VUB participants is "Don't give up. School is challenging for a reason. It is the only way in having the career you want, and achieve what you want in life."

Student Profiles



Communication Upward Bound

When it comes to loyalty to one's family and involvement in the TRIO Communication Upward Bound program (CUB), Jessica Hardesty tops the list. A senior at South High School, Jessica has been active in CUB since her freshman year. She had much encouragement and support from two older siblings who successfully completed the CUB program. Strong supporters of CUB, the Hardesty parents have actively shared requirements about the program as well as encouraged other students to get involved.

Simply put, CUB has been instrumental in the educational and career choices made by the entire family. It's a big "thank you" from both Deanne and Phil Hardesty when they pick up Jessica from CUB-sponsored events or Saturday enrichment workshops. "I love what all of you do for these students," Deanne said with passion. "We appreciate you."

A sometimes shy and soft-spoken person, Jessica sets high goals and looks forward to college. Jessica has been accepted to five colleges in Kansas, including Wichita State University, where she has lived in Fairmount Towers during CUB's summer, residential session for several years. She wants to major in child psychology.

"The quote, 'the key to success is hard work and determination,' represents me because I always work my hardest to do the best I possibly can," Jessica said. She believes that her drive to achieve goals and to keep good grades both will help her succeed in life. Part of that journey will include a message from her parents "to never give up and to always chase my dream."



Upward Bound Wichita Prep students sort donations for Operation Holiday



McNair student presents research



Talent Search students on a college campus visit



Communication Upward Bound students learn about chemical reactions

Keynote Speaker



The keynote speaker for the February 13, 2014 National TRIO Day banquet is **Linda Byrd-Johnson, Ph.D.** For nearly 36 years, Byrd-Johnson has been employed by the U.S. Department of Education in several different capacities.

She currently serves as the senior director, Student Service Area, Office of Postsecondary Education, where she is responsible for directing, planning and managing the Federal TRIO Programs, the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS), GEAR UP, College Access Challenge Grant, Jacob Javits, and the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) programs.

The Ezine committee had a chance to catch up with Byrd-Johnson to ask her a few questions.

Q: It has been four years since we last interviewed you for this publication. What, in your opinion, has been the most significant change for the TRIO programs?

Byrd-Johnson: The most significant change for the Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO) in recent years is a result of the authorization of the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA), which amended the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA). The passage of the HEOA was pivotal to changes in the TRIO Programs as it required the negotiation of subsequent changes in the regulations governing the programs, some of which were significant. The HEOA set forth/established outcome criteria specifically for the precollege programs and introduced required activities. Since the promulgation of the regulations in 2010, there has been a new competition under each of the programs, beginning with Student Support Services and culminating with Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math and Science, Veterans Upward Bound and the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Programs. Equally important, the new regulations established a level of achievement,

which projects must demonstrate in order to be eligible for points under the Prior Experience (PE) Criteria.

Changes in the program regulations, and requirements established in the Notices Inviting Applications under each of the program competitions necessitated the development of new performance reporting forms to facilitate the collection of data on project outcomes. Also worthy of mentioning here is the fact that the Department achieved a goal of being able to provide grantees with their PE score at the end of the submission of their annual performance reports, which began for the first time with SSS in 2012, the first program competed post HEOA.

Q: You have been with the Department of Education for over 35 years. What have been the most rewarding aspects of your job(s) as you begin to reflect on your career?

Byrd-Johnson: I thoroughly appreciated the opportunity to serve in a number of capacities in the Department as I gained invaluable experience and knowledge from each. My most rewarding positions have been my service as a program specialist in International Education, the Federal TRIO Programs and albeit a short tenure serving as the acting deputy assistant secretary for Higher Education Programs. My tenure with the International Education Programs provided an opportunity for me to apply my graduate education training in managing programs designed to increase the participation of groups underrepresented in international and global studies as well as opportunities to travel overseas to enhance my knowledge. In a number of ways, my tenure with the TRIO Programs under the umbrella of Student Service (SS) has been my most rewarding professional experience. This position provides opportunities to inform policies relating to access to and completion of postsecondary education programs by low-income, potential first generation college students and students with disabilities. Low-income students deserve advocates at all levels of the education pipeline. Having respon-

(Continued on page 11)

Keynote Speaker

sibility for the myriad of student-focused programs administered by SS (Federal TRIO Programs, GEAR UP, Child Care Access Means Parents in School, College programs and the Access Challenge Grants along with Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need) has been and continues to be my reason for continuing to work to make a difference for all students.

Serving as the acting deputy assistant secretary for Higher Education Programs provided a platform for me to work more collaboratively with colleagues with responsibility for administering Federal programs the support capacity building for minority servicing institutions; most of which are also grantees under programs administered by SS.

Q: What kind of a legacy do you hope to leave the TRIO community with?

Byrd-Johnson: It is my hope that the TRIO community understands and appreciates my commitment to the programs and that I have been successful in conveying to TRIO professionals how much we value their work with students. That I was successful in many of my efforts to navigate the bridge between the Department and the TRIO community. That is, being a voice of support for the community within the Department when needed and also a voice of reason and clarification with the TRIO community when bureaucratic process seemed out of touch with community needs. And that the current TRIO leadership has embraced my constant recommendation that they have a responsibility to prepare the next generation of leaders so that the tradition of serving a cause greater than oneself continues.

Q: How do you view TRIO's impact on students, institutions, and communities?

Byrd-Johnson: It must be understood here that my view of TRIO's impact on students, institutions and communities is based on personal assessments and not on research findings. When you listen to the students currently being served by TRIO and TRIO alumnae, you immediately understand the positive impact of

their participation in TRIO, not only in their lives, but on the lives of their families and peers. Conversations with institutional representatives that are TRIO grantees always seem to convey the impact of TRIO on opening the doors of access to students that would likely not been able to successfully pursue programs of postsecondary education. The services offered by the pre-college programs and the collegiate programs have been instrumental in retention, graduation and yes, enrollment in postbaccalaureate programs. Regarding communities, I would venture to say that local businesses that provide internships, research opportunities and other outreach to local TRIO projects do so because they witness the commitment of both students and TRIO professionals to opening doors to them as future contributors to the well-being of the communities in which they live. I am not surprised at all when I learn that TRIO alumnae return to their communities to serve in a myriad of public service-type positions and/or volunteer in local community efforts to enhance the lives of its low-income citizenry – I AM PROUD because as the slogan goes – TRIO WORKS!

Q: Finally, what advice would you offer to TRIO personnel to make the program more effective?

Byrd-Johnson: As several of us often say that have been working in TRIO for some time, I would encourage TRIO personnel to remain mindful that expectations are not the same as those of the early projects. This is to say, TRIO personnel must own the responsibility of accountability, be flexible and committed to adapting to ever changing strategies and challenges. To continue to be successful in achieving outcomes, project directors must avail themselves to innovations and promising practices to produce outcomes that will accurately demonstrate the impact of the Federal TRIO Programs on the students served. This will require honest assessments and evaluations of the delivery of services and acceptance of third party validation of outcomes.

TRIO Day Program

National TRIO Day Town Hall Meeting and Banquet

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2014

Location: Wichita State University
Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex

Town Hall Meeting Program: 10:30am

Special Guest Speaker - Linda Byrd-Johnson, Senior Director, Student Services Area, Office of Postsecondary Education, United States Department of Education, Washington, DC

Banquet Program: 6:00pm

VIP Reception (by invitation)

Opening Remarks – Deltha Q. Colvin, Associate Vice President for Campus Life and University Relations, Wichita State University

Greetings – John Bardo, President, Wichita State University

Welcome – Wade Robinson, Vice President for Campus Life & University Relations, Wichita State University

Proclamation – Carl Brewer, Mayor, City of Wichita

Proclamation—Wichita State University

Proclamation - Office of Governor Sam Brownback, State of Kansas

Acknowledgement of Special Guests

Words of Inspiration

Dinner Served

Keynote Speaker—Linda Byrd-Johnson
“TRIO – Fifty Years of Providing Hope and Opportunity”

TRIO Student Achievement Awards

TRIO Building Bridges Award

Recognition of the Special Programs Staff

Closing Remarks – Deltha Q. Colvin