

### Message from the Director: Larry Ramos



The end of the school year is synonymous with celebrations. Whether graduating from eighth grade or high school, students should take in the moments when they are congratulated by family, friends, and peers.

Graduation is a huge deal because it means one thing—accomplishment. As the featured faces of all the graduates are proudly shown in this issue, it is apparent that finishing something that one starts is uplifting, inspirational, and very personal.

Following graduation, students will hear one question time and again - “So, what are you going to do now?” It is an important question and, hopefully, students have some idea of what the next chapter in life will look like.

However, it is okay if students haven’t decided if finding a job, taking summer classes, or taking a little time off is the immediate plan. TRIO Talent Search-South advisors are here to help, if needed. Feel free to stop by the new location on the Wichita State main campus or give one of them a call.

Take time to celebrate and then in a couple of weeks, begin planning for the future.

Congratulations to all the students in TRIO Talent Search-South!

Summer 2025

# TRiO



## Congrats Grads!

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# TRIO STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS CONFERENCE

## Kathy Nguyen , Program Educational Advisor

Three students from Wichita South High School had the opportunity to attend the 2025 TRIO Student Access and Success Conference, hosted by North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, North Carolina, from April 10–12. The event, aimed at supporting TRIO and first-generation students, was a powerful experience in college readiness, leadership, and service.

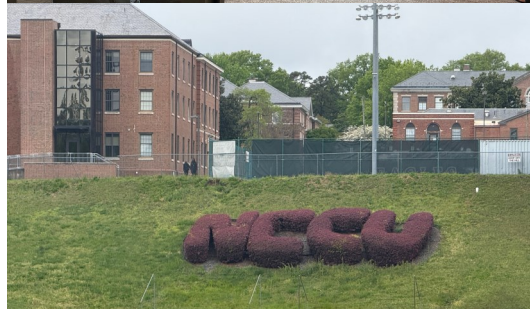
Students began their journey at Eisenhower National Airport in Wichita, where they checked in, passed through security, and enjoyed breakfast before boarding their flight. Upon arrival in Durham, they settled into their hotel and registered for the conference on campus at NCCU. The event opened with a keynote address by Dekendrick Murray, Executive Director for Student Access and Success at NCCU. Murray shared personal insights from his work and encouraged students to “network, reflect, and be themselves.”

High-energy performances by NCCU’s sorority chapters and elite cheer team added excitement to the opening day.

Throughout the three-day conference, students participated in dynamic breakout sessions focused on preparing for college, building successful habits, and understanding financial literacy. Meanwhile, staff engaged in professional development sessions covering stress management, access coaching, and educational innovation.

A highlight of the conference was the TRIO Day of Service. Wichita South students volunteered at NCCU’s campus food pantry, helping to stock shelves and organize supplies. The experience emphasized the importance of community service as part of personal and academic growth.

Students returned to Wichita inspired, more informed about their college options, and grateful for the chance to grow academically and personally through this unique travel opportunity.





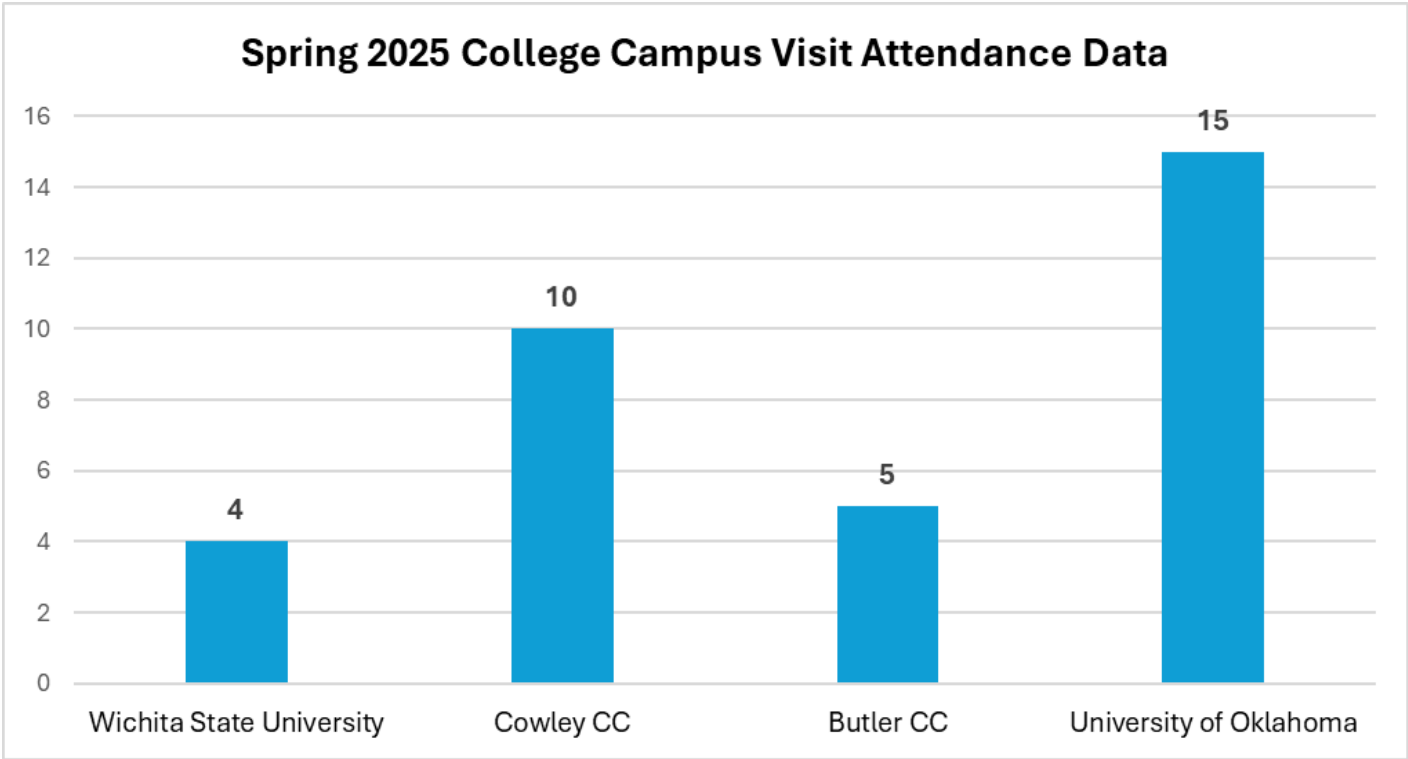
# Spring 2025 Campus Visit Attendance

Vivian Pham-Chanthivong, Assistant Director/Statistician

This spring semester had a total of **34 students** participating in college campus visits between four colleges and universities. Attendance among the colleges included:

- **Wichita State University** – 4 students
- **Cowley Community College** – 10 students
- **Butler County Community College** – 5 students
- **University of Oklahoma** – 15 students

The increase in engagement highlights our students' growing interest in higher education opportunities and reflects their proactive approach to future planning. Special thanks to the program staff for coordinating these informative events.



## Soft Skills

Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist



As students prepare for the world of work, it is important to have more than just basic technical skills. Employers are looking for soft skills. Soft skills are interpersonal and social abilities, also known as power skills. These are skills that aid in conflict resolution, problem-solving, teamwork, increased productivity, and job growth. Initiative, leadership, confidence, and organizational skills are valuable soft skills to employers.

Simply knowing how firmly to shake a hand, how to greet people, or how to resolve a heated discussion where both parties feel heard and understood are a display of soft skills. Soft skills can make the workplace more tolerable and manageable. Soft skills include innovative ideas, displaying honesty, and reliability. It is showing accountability for one's actions and performing with professionalism.

### References:

<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/interviewing/why-are-soft-skills-important>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soft\\_skills](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soft_skills)

## SOFT SKILLS (PEOPLE SKILLS)



### COMMUNICATION

Greet people. Give a firm handshake. Speak clearly and concisely. Actively listen. Spell check. Pay attention to body language.



### LEADERSHIP

Take initiative. Cooperate. Problem-solve. Delegate. Manage time wisely. Exercise strategic and critical thinking. Set S.M.A.R.T. goals.



### WORK ETHICS

Be punctual, reliable, and disciplined. Maintain professional attire, behavior, and positive attitude.



### EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Be self-aware, motivated, and have a growth mindset. Be flexible. Show empathy and strengthen social skills.



### TEAMWORK

Respect self and others. Manage conflicts efficiently. Establish clear structure and achievable goals. Create sense of belonging and a safe space for open communication.

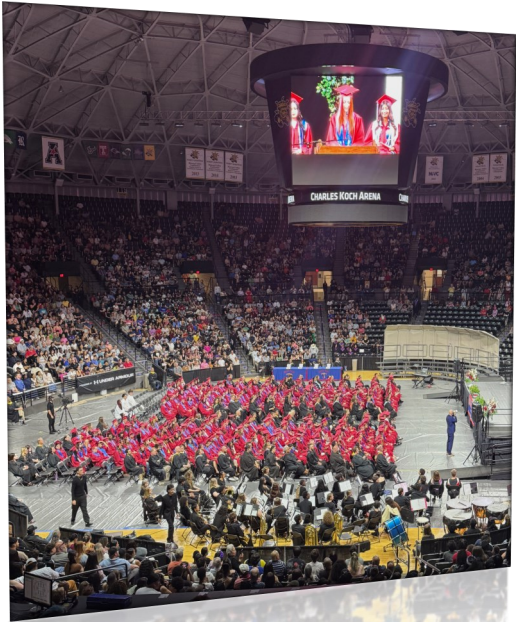
For more information, contact a Talent Search advisor

**[www.wichita.edu/talentsearch](http://www.wichita.edu/talentsearch)**



# Graduation

Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist



Graduation is an exciting transition in a young person's life. It's a time to reflect on lessons learned, accomplishments made, connections gained, and plans for the future. Whether those plans include technical school, college, a new job, or the unconventional (military or community service), the future can be intimidating. However, TRIO is still here to help. TRIO offers college assistance through its Student Support Services, Disability Support Services, and McNair Scholars Programs. The Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) can help prepare students for higher education by providing free counseling and assistance regarding two-year and four-year college programs and technical training opportunities to enhance their career. EOC services include training sessions to help adults prepare for college, assistance with the college application process, financial aid advising, career guidance and more. This includes help with time management, study skills, soft skills, interest assessment, career exploration, and connections to scholarships. Before students graduate, check with a Talent Search-South advisor about resources that can help with future planning. Contact [Vivian.Pham@wichita.edu](mailto:Vivian.Pham@wichita.edu) or [Kathy.Nguyen@wichita.edu](mailto:Kathy.Nguyen@wichita.edu). You can also stop by our new office located in Grace Wilkie Annex 158 on the WSU main campus.





Class  
of  
2025



SOFT  
TAG



# Class of 2025



*"Success happens as a result of preparation, discipline, persistence, and the application of lessons learned."*

*- Charles Mann*





# Calendar

## June

- 2-30 ..... Middle School Summer Enrichment Program (SEP)
- 6 ..... ACT Registration Deadline; ACT Workshop
- 7 ..... SAT Test Administration
- 14 ..... ACT Test Administration
- 15 ..... Father's Day
- 26 ..... SEP Talent Showcase and Recognition Ceremony
- 27 ..... 5th-7th Grade SEP College Road Trip
- 29 ..... 8th Grade SEP College Road Trip



## July

- 1-2 ..... 8th Grade SEP College Road Trip
- 2 ..... SEP Ends
- 4 ..... Independence Day
- 12 ..... ACT Test Administration



## August

- 14 ..... First Day of School

## TRIO Talent Search-South

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