

# TS EXPRESS

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025 | VOL 23 | ISSUE 2

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Due to the snow and cold weather, students were forced to miss a lot of school. Hopefully these natural occurrences did not have a profound impact on students learning what they needed to master. A handful of parents reported that their student(s) spent those snow days reading, practicing their musical instruments, and yes – even studying! If students spent their time in bed, or worse, on their phones, they may just find that they are not where they need to be at this point in the school year. TRIO Talent Search understands this and is making its After School Tutoring Program a priority to help students get back on track. Students may stop by or fill out an online tutor request form. Visit the program's website (noted on the last page of this newsletter) for more information. Also, middle school students may apply for the program's Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) for more intensive support and assistance. Again, visit the TRIO Talent Search website for more information and the SEP application.

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Ramos and Middle School Director Stephanie Haynes posing in front of WU Shock poster with former Talent Search/Summer Enrichment Program participants

# Student Spotlight: Azul

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

Azul is a senior at North High School. She has been an active TRIO Talent Search (TS) participant for two years and visits with her TS advisor Emily Roets-Estevez weekly. Roets-Estevez selected Azul for the TS Student Spotlight due to her dedication towards her future and her perseverance through several difficult situations this year. Azul attended the 2023-2024 campus visit to Wichita State University, where she will enroll for fall 2025 as a business major with an emphasis in marketing. An active participant in North High's Business Professionals of America (BPA) Club, Azul competed at the Kansas Student Leadership Conference (KSLC) and attended BPA Nationals. She received several BPA awards, such as Intermediate Word Processing at KSLC.

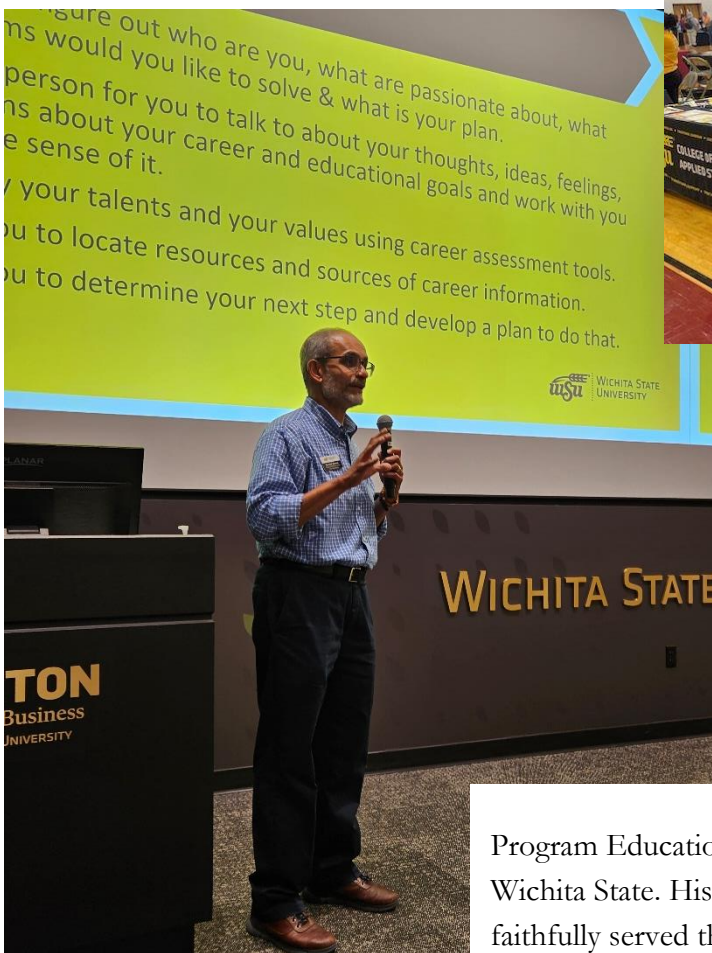
In addition to extracurricular activities, Azul utilized several TS services to prepare for college. She is a regular at North High's College and Career Center, where she explored different career options, weighed several college options to find the right fit, and spent hours searching and applying for scholarships. When asked how TRIO Talent Search helped her throughout high school, Azul noted that the ACT preparation resources gave her the confidence to try the test again. She also appreciates the help with finding scholarships, assistance with editing her scholarship essays, and the letters of recommendation she received from her TS advisor. Azul shared that "Ms. Emily has been supportive throughout every decision I have made. She always listens and gives me the best advice, and she has truly been an inspiration." Roets-Estevez and the Talent Search team are confident that Azul will be successful in her college endeavors and look forward to seeing all the amazing things she will accomplish.





# Farewell Suresh

Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist



College Jump Start



High School Career Fair



Staff Lunch Meeting



Senior Financial Literacy Workshop

Program Educational Advisor Suresh Menon has retired from Wichita State. His last day at Talent Search was January 17<sup>th</sup>. He faithfully served the students at Hamilton Middle School and West High School for two years as the mentoring and career coordinator. Menon assisted with ACT prep, college prep, financial literacy, life skills, and career workshops. He also collaborated with community partners like WSU, the YMCA, Workforce Alliance, Meritrust Credit Union, Fidelity Bank, and Pando Initiative to provide presentations to students on the importance of education, careers, and money management. Menon worked with the Pando girl's lunch group, Pando chess club, and Pando boys group at Hamilton Middle School. He was eager to help in any way possible to ensure each student's success. He was also a supportive member of the Talent Search team. TS wishes Menon well as he pursues other endeavors, but he will be sorely missed and forever a part of the TRIO family. Congratulations to Menon and many thanks for all he did on behalf of the students he served. A replacement for Menon has yet to be selected.

# Changes to the ACT Test

Thip Phichith, Program Educational Advisor; ACT/SAT Coordinator

What is changing with the new ACT? As many students may or may not know, tremendous changes are happening in April 2025. The new and updated ACT will be available to all students that are taking the test online. The online test will have more flexibility including, a shorter test, and more time allotted for answers to each question. There will also be an option to skip the science and writing sections. However, the composite score will comprise the average of English, math, and reading scores. Science will be included as a separate score for students choosing to take the science section. By September 2025, all students whether testing online or on paper will be able to experience the benefits of the updated ACT. By Spring 2026, all schools and districts will have officially accepted these options. For more information on the ACT, please visit their website: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).



ACT Power Prep Workshop

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## Now Hiring Tutors

Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist



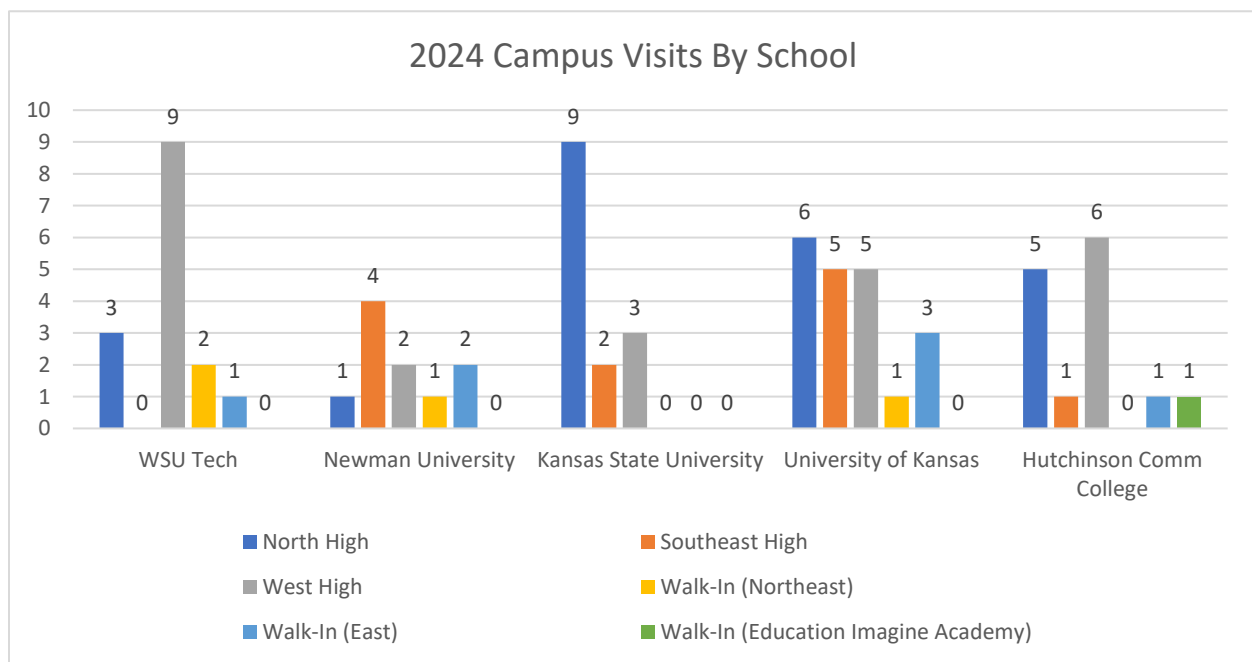
Talent Search is looking for capable WSU students who are interested in tutoring for the summer and for the academic year. Eligibility requirements include:

- Currently enrolled as a WSU student with class schedule
- Cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to use Microsoft Word, Excel, and Access.

# 2024 Campus Visits

Mani Souriya, Associate Director/Statistician

Visiting a college campus can significantly assist students in determining the most suitable institution for their needs. Consequently, Talent Search organizes numerous campus tours to facilitate this process for students. In 2024, a total of 73 students participated in visits to WSU Tech, Newman University, Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, and Hutchinson Community College. Prior to their tours, students enjoyed a buffet breakfast. A chart detailing the campuses visited by students from North, Southeast, West High, and walk-ins from East, Northeast Magnet, and Education Imagine Academy schools is provided below.



Listed below are the remaining campus visits for 2025:

College	Date	Breakfast	Return
Wichita State University	Thursday, March 13th	8:15AM	1:00PM
Cowley Community College	Wednesday, March 26 <sup>th</sup>	8:30AM	1:45PM
Butler Community College	Tuesday, April 8 <sup>th</sup>	8:00AM	1:45PM
University of Oklahoma	Thursday, April 24 <sup>th</sup>	No Breakfast	4:00PM



Interested in attending a campus visit tour?

To register, please contact Mani Souriya at 316-978-6757 or scan the QR code provided.

All campus visits start at Wichita State University, Brennan Hall 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), 1749 N Yale.



# Fun with Talent Search

**Stephanie Haynes, Middle School Director; Summer Enrichment Program Coordinator**

Come and be a part of TRIO Talent Search's Summer Enrichment Program (SEP). Enhance skills in math, English, computer technology, science, financial literacy/life skills and theater arts. A nutritious breakfast, snacks, lunch, and social interaction are guaranteed. Explore college campuses, along with fun, educational activities and much more. The SEP begins on May 27<sup>th</sup> and will conclude on June 26<sup>th</sup> with the Talent Showcase and Awards Recognition Ceremony. The SEP will be held Monday through Thursday, starting at 7:45 a.m. and ending at 2:15 p.m. Applications will be available soon on the Talent Search official website at [www.wichita.edu/talentsearch](http://www.wichita.edu/talentsearch). All applications must be fully completed and received in the office no later than April 18, 2025. For more information, please contact 316.978.6758 or email [stephanie.haynes@wichita.edu](mailto:stephanie.haynes@wichita.edu).

College Campus Visits



Field Trips



Social Emotional Learning (SEL)



BARTON  
School of Business  
Wichita State University



Motivational Speakers

Special Projects



Classes





## 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

Wichita State University  
1845 Fairmount, Campus Box 96  
Wichita, KS 67260-0096  
Office: 316.978.3127 | Fax: 316.978.3527  
<https://www.wichita.edu/talentsearch>

### Notice of Nondiscrimination:

Wichita State University (WSU) does not discriminate in its employment practices, or in its educational programs or activities on the basis of age (40 years or older), ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. WSU also prohibits retaliation against any person making a complaint of discrimination or against any person involved or participating in the investigation of any such allegation. Sexual misconduct, relationship violence, and stalking are forms of sex discrimination and are prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, other federal law, and WSU policy. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding WSU's non-discrimination policies: the Associate Vice President and University Title IX Coordinator (Telephone: (316) 978-3186), Office of Civil Rights, Title IX & ADA Compliance. For inquiries, please call or visit the Office of Civil Rights, Title IX & ADA Compliance at (316) 978-3186, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260, Lindquist Hall.

### Notice of Funding:

TRIO Talent Search is 100% funded by the United States Department of Education and is hosted by Wichita State University. Funding for grant year 2024-2025 is \$672,135.

# Calendar Events

## March 2025

- 08 | SAT Test Administration
- 13 | Wichita State University Campus Visit
- 14-21 | No School (Spring Break)
- 26 | Cowley Campus Visit

## April 2025

- 01 | April Fool's Day
- 04 | Beetlejuice Music Theater Production
- 04-05 | First Generation Student Leadership Experience, FL
- 05 | ACT Test Administration
- 08 | Butler Campus Visit, SAT Registration Deadline
- 10-12 | TRIO Student Access & Success Conference, NC
- 18 | No School (Conference Release Day), SAT Registration Deadline
- 20 | Easter Sunday
- 21 | No School (District Inservice)
- 24 | University of Oklahoma Campus Visit
- 27 | Cher Music Theater Production

## May 2025

- 03 | SAT Test Administration
- 09 | ACT Registration Deadline
- 11 | Mother's Day
- 17 | SEP Parent Meeting
- 22 | SAT Registration Deadline
- 22 | Last Day of School
- 26 | Memorial Day
- 27 | Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) Begins



## Program Staff

**Larry Ramos**, Executive Director, **Mani Souriya**, Associate Director/Statistician, **Thip Phichith**, Program Educational Advisor/ACT-SAT Coordinator, **Emily Roets-Estevez**, Program Educational Advisor/Financial Literacy Coordinator, **Stephanie Haynes**, Middle School Director, **Sharon K. Robertson**, Senior Administrative Assistant