

Talent Search

Outstanding
Alum



Mallela Sabas

Rising
Star



Priscilla Castaneda

Former TRIO Talent Search participant **Mallela Sabas** won the prestigious 2018 Distinguished Classroom Teacher Award for USD 259. Mallela's award was in the middle school category. In a feature article in the June edition of *El Perico* magazine, she recalled entering elementary school knowing only how to say "ice cream" and "teacher" in English. Interestingly, that last word she knew how to say would be the one that defines who she is as a professional.

As a potential first generation college student, Mallela attended North High School where she participated in the WSU's TRIO Talent Search program. After graduating high school, she went to Wichita State where she graduated with honors from the teacher education program, specializing in Pre-Kindergarten to 12th Grade Spanish.

Currently, she teaches Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Excel, language arts, and interventional classes at Jardine Technology Magnet Middle School. Her passion for teaching is undeniable as her recent award indicates.

Priscilla Castaneda has been a participant in TRIO Talent Search since sixth grade. She currently is a freshman at Wichita North High School. She learned early on that she could receive advice and guidance from the program counselors on preparing for college. All of her older siblings are TRIO alums. Priscilla takes great pride in her school work. She strives to achieve A's in all of her classes.

Her hard work in middle school paid huge dividends. This year, she was named a recipient of the Give Something Back Scholarship—a full-ride scholarship after high school graduation. When it was announced that she was to receive the award, she thought about her hardworking mother and how the scholarship would take a huge weight off her shoulders. She also thought about the staff of Talent Search who believed in her. Priscilla and her family are grateful to the program for the many doors that have opened to them.