

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



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## ANNUAL REPORT VIDEO CONTENTS

- Highlighted Campus Visits
- College Readiness Activities
- Special Programs
- Professional Development
- Program Statistics
- Program Evaluations
- A Movie in Pictures

**This CD features an audio introduction**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The 2020-2021 grant year not only marked the end of the grant period, it also marked the end of the five-year grant cycle. Having said that, the university was recently notified that it was awarded a new five-year grant to commence with the 2021-2022 school year. The staff is relieved and thrilled to know that the important services provided by the program will continue.

Given the unique operating circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire school year was conducted on a mostly remote basis. While it was difficult to meaningfully connect with students, teachers, and other partners, the staff did a tremendous job in achieving success and making progress in meeting the program's

objectives. I would like to thank Assistant Vice President for Special Programs Deltha Q. Colvin for the leadership she has provided to the program. It is a relief to have someone of her caliber and experience to call upon when questions need to be answered and when technical assistance is required. Special thanks to the Vice President for Strategic Engagement and Planning Kaye Monk-Morgan, PhD for her leadership in getting the program acclimated to the new campus division and for securing communication with the Wichita Public School District administration.

This year also marked the beginning of the era for WSU President Richard Muma, PhD, who was named the 15<sup>th</sup> president of the university earlier this year. The program looks forward to his leadership in the coming years, as the program staff considers how to improve on delivery of services, marketing the program to the community, and achieving the objectives of the program.



**DELTHA Q. COLVIN**

Associate Vice President for Special Programs



**V. KAYE MONK-MORGAN, EDD.**

Vice President for Strategic Engagement and Planning



**RICHARD D. MUMA  
PH.D., MPH, PA-C**

President, Wichita State University



# PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

## TRIO Affiliation

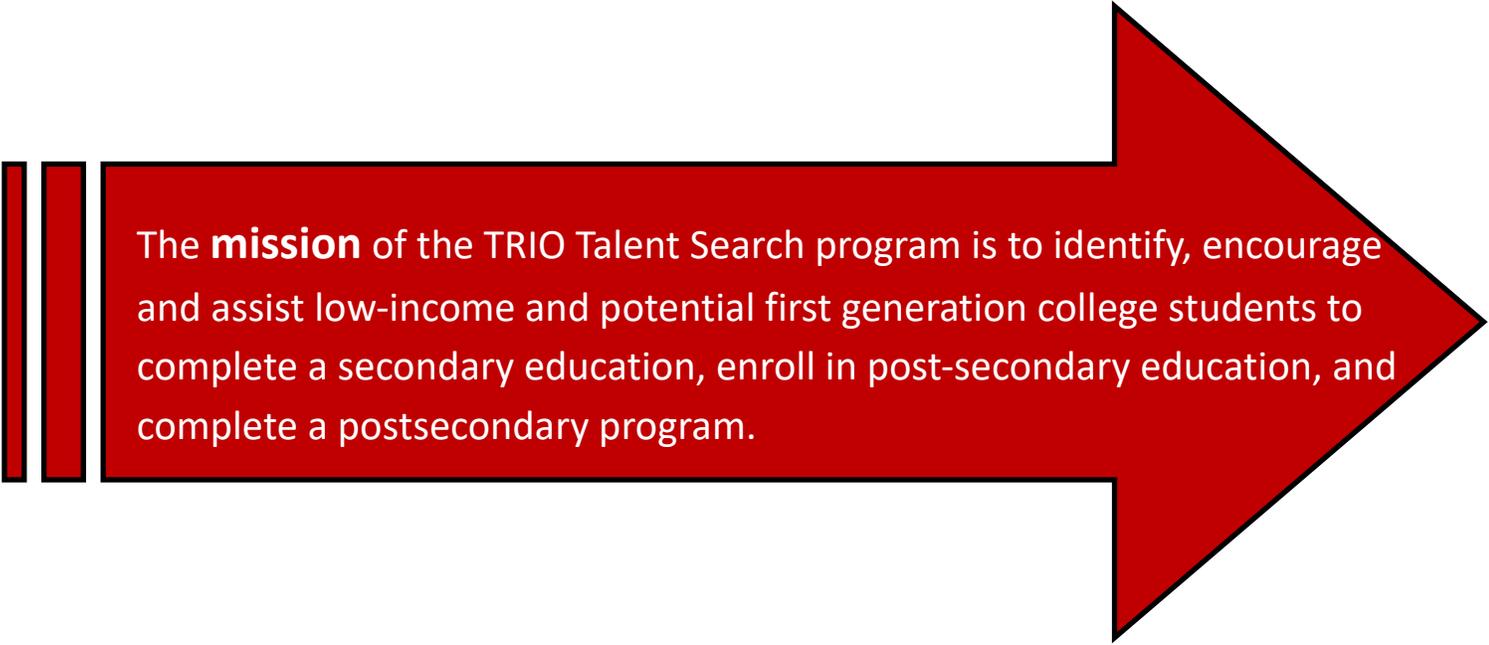
Talent Search is the TRIO program created under the Higher Education Act of 1965. The program is housed on the Wichita State main campus. Other TRIO programs at Wichita State University include Communication Upward Bound, Disability Support Services, Educational Opportunity Centers, McNair Scholars Program, Student Support Services, Upward Bound Math-Science, Upward Bound Wichita Prep, Veterans Upward Bound, and Upward Bound Empowerment.

## Grant Funding

For the 2020-2021 academic year, Talent Search was awarded funding in the amount of \$624,429 from the U.S. Department of Education. This grant supports the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program (SEP), campus visits and services provided throughout the academic year, workshops on financial literacy and ACT preparation, and After School Tutoring Programs (ASTP).

## Daily Operation

The program employs a full-time director, associate director/statistician, middle school director, three program educational advisors, a senior administrative assistant as well as part-time tutors and student assistants. While most of the grant funds were allocated to services provided to students, funds were included for allowable professional staff development, equipment, supplies and other operating expenditures to enable the program to serve students at a high level.



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.

# PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Since 2016, the program has responded to the mandatory program objectives developed by the U.S. Department of Education.

## Secondary School Persistence:

Ninety-five percent of non-senior participants served each project year will complete the current academic year and continue in school for the next academic year, at the next grade level.

**The program achieved 98.38 percent.**

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## Secondary School Graduation:

Eighty percent of seniors served during the project year will graduate during the project year with a regular secondary school diploma within the standard number of years.

**The program achieved 95.96 percent.**

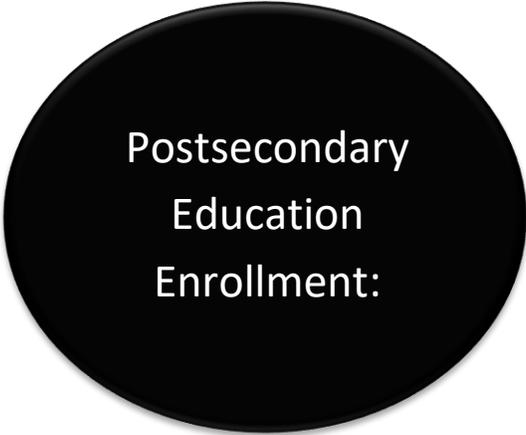
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## Secondary School Graduation

(Rigorous Secondary School Program of Study):

Twenty-five percent of seniors served during the project year will complete a rigorous secondary school program of study and will graduate during the project year with a regular secondary school diploma within the standard number of years.

**The program achieved 19.28 percent.**



Postsecondary  
Education  
Enrollment:

Sixty-five percent of participants, who graduated with a regular secondary school diploma, during the project year will enroll in an institution of higher education by the fall term immediately following high school graduation or will have received notification, by the fall term immediately following high school, from an institution of higher education, of acceptance but deferred enrollment until the next academic term (e.g. spring term).

**The program achieved 42.06 percent.**



Postsecondary  
Attainment:

Forty-five percent of participants served during the project year, which enrolled in an institution of higher education, by the fall term immediately following high school graduation or by the next academic term (e.g. spring term) as a result of acceptance but deferred enrollment will, complete a program of postsecondary education within six years.

**The program achieved 46 percent.**

**Please note the following definition:**

Enrolled – a participant who has completed the registration requirements (except for the payment of tuition and fees) at the institution that he or she is attending.

# SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

To ensure students achieved their educational goals, the program offered a wide array of services and activities during the grant year to meet their needs. The following provides a brief overview of the services and activities provided by the program.

## **Academic Advising, Assistance in Pre-College and Rigorous Course Planning and College Course Selection**

Program counselors advised students on rigorous pre-college curriculum to ensure postsecondary eligibility. A month-long summer program on high school preparation was conducted online to assist middle school students in making a successful transition to high school. Graduating seniors were advised of college course offerings and possible majors. Juniors and seniors were advised on the procedures to take classes for college credit while still in high school. During the summer, Talent Search partnered with the Uncommon Individual Foundation's OnTrack College Readiness Program to support senior level students to apply to postsecondary institutions, complete the FAFSA and scholarship applications, register for courses and campus orientation, arrange for housing, and identify a college advisor. Students viewed online lessons and connected weekly with their Talent Search program educational advisors to discuss college plans and receive academic support.

## **Assistance in Completing College Admission Applications and Financial Aid Forms**

Students received technical assistance in completing college admission applications and financial aid forms. A computer lab was available for program students to complete online applications including the FAFSA. Program counselors reviewed applications and students were advised of admission application fee waivers and grants for TRIO participants offered at many colleges and universities. Online workshops were offered throughout the year providing students information on financial literacy, scholarships and other related topics. TRIO Talent Search held a video conference in November sharing information about the Give Something Back scholarship, which provides full-ride scholarships to 50 underserved students who face unique challenges in attending college. Talent Search also hosted a financial literacy workshop via Zoom.

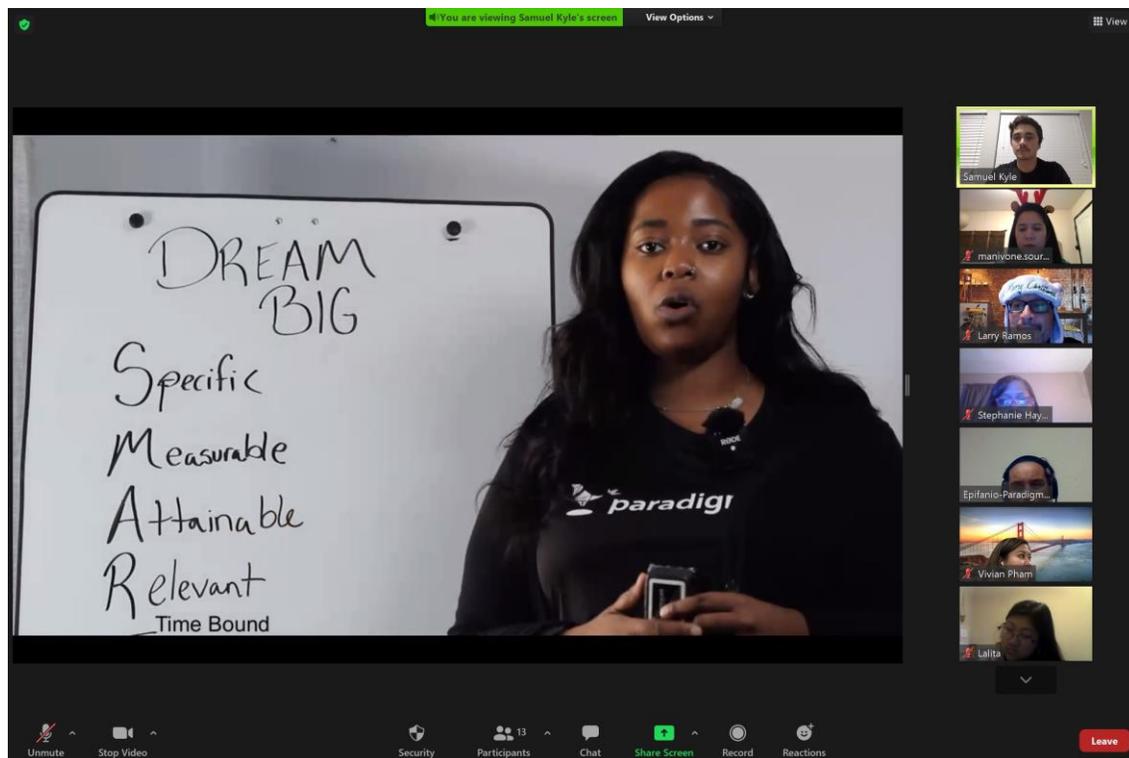
## **Assistance in Preparing for College Entrance Examinations**

Program counselors advised students on preparing for the ACT and SAT exams. The program's computer lab and After School Tutoring Program/College Resource Library houses study guides and practice test materials. Academic resources were also mailed to students. Mailings included items such as rack cards and pamphlets on money management, financial aid, college admissions, FAFSA, goals, and college prep.

Counselors reached out to students using Remind, emails, text messaging and other social media to advise students on test taking strategies, good study habits, exam expectations, and other topics to help prepare them for exams. ACT and SAT registration fee waivers were obtained and provided to students who met eligibility guidelines. The program also conducted a virtual ACT workshop.

## Mentoring and Career Counseling

Students met with program staff for mentoring relationships via phone calls, Remind messaging, video conferencing and other available media. Students could talk about any concerns they had regarding school, home life, or express their ideas for future goals. Presentations on career and educational opportunities were conducted online through Microsoft Teams for middle schools, high schools and community agencies. Talent Search also hosted a virtual College Jump Start event to assist seniors in making sure that they completed the FAFSA, college admissions, housing applications and scheduled college orientation. The Talent Search program also partnered with Paradigm Shift to present the following workshops: Growth Mindset Versus Fixed Mindset, Dream Big, Postsecondary College Options, Financial Planning, and College Readiness.



## Guidance on Secondary School Re-Entry or Entry to Other Programs Leading to a Secondary School Diploma or Its Equivalent

Program counselors offered advice to students who had dropped out of high school to re-enter school or enroll in an alternative education program. The purpose of this support was to assist students in receiving their high school diplomas, high school equivalency, or GED so that they could become eligible to apply to postsecondary institutions.

## Campus Visits

Students were offered virtual campus visits throughout the academic year to learn about admissions, financial aid, housing options, majors, and other college-related matters. Campus visits included: Baker University, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Langston University (HBCU), Newman University, University of Texas at Austin, Wichita State University, and WSU Tech (NCAT & South).



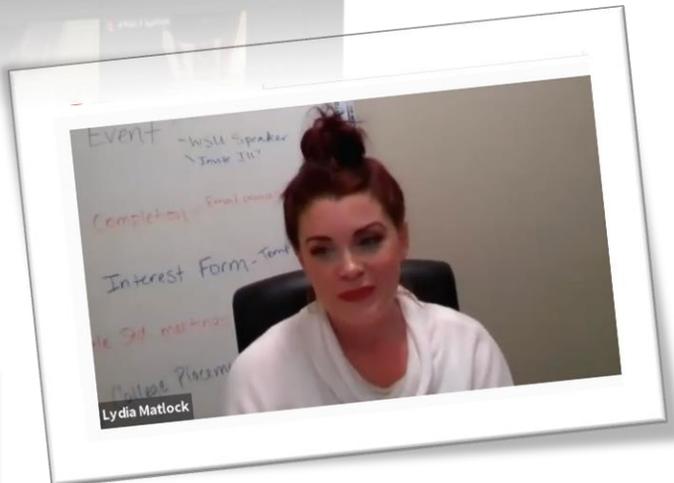
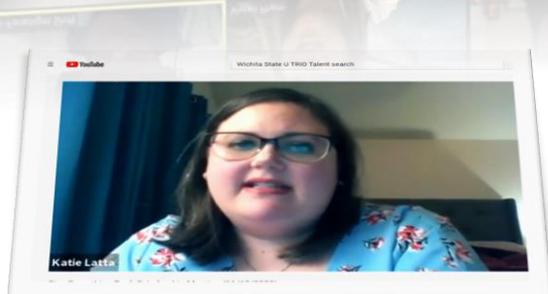
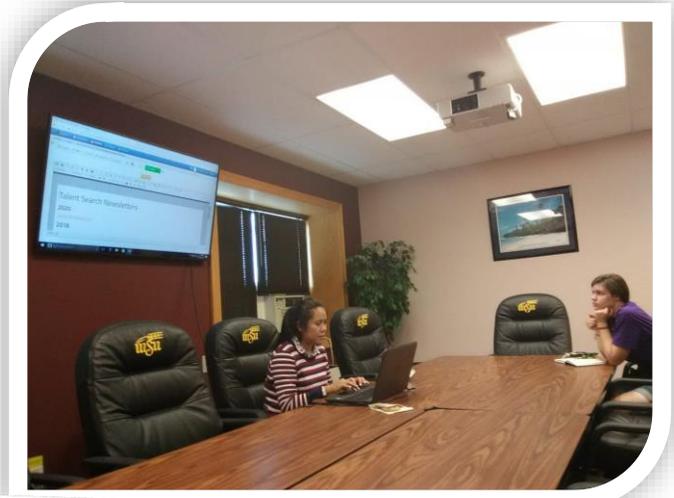
## Tutorial Services and Summer Enrichment Program for Middle School Students

Tutoring and homework assistance was provided to program students. The program maintained a staff of six tutors for math and other subjects. One tutor was assigned to each of the target middle school and high schools – Target middle schools: Brooks Technology and Arts, Jardine STEM and Career Explorations, Mayberry Cultural and Fine Arts Magnet, Pleasant Valley, Hamilton, and Curtis; target high schools: North, Southeast, and West.

During the summer, 30 students were selected for the Virtual Middle School Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) via Zoom due to COVID-19. Fifteen 8<sup>th</sup> graders were selected for the June session (June 1-25<sup>th</sup>) and fifteen 6-7<sup>th</sup> graders were selected for the July session (July 6-30<sup>th</sup>). Teaching consultants conducted class instruction Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in the subjects of English, math, science, and life skills/financial literacy. Science was supported by Nucleus Robotics. Fun, educational activities were held on Fridays, including virtual campus visits, motivational guest speakers, Escape Room, Music Theatre of Wichita, and Paradigm Shift activities. On the last day of the summer program, students participated in a talent showcase/awards and recognition ceremony.

# YEAR AT A GLANCE

Talent Search participates in various educational and cultural activities. This timeline highlights some of those events.

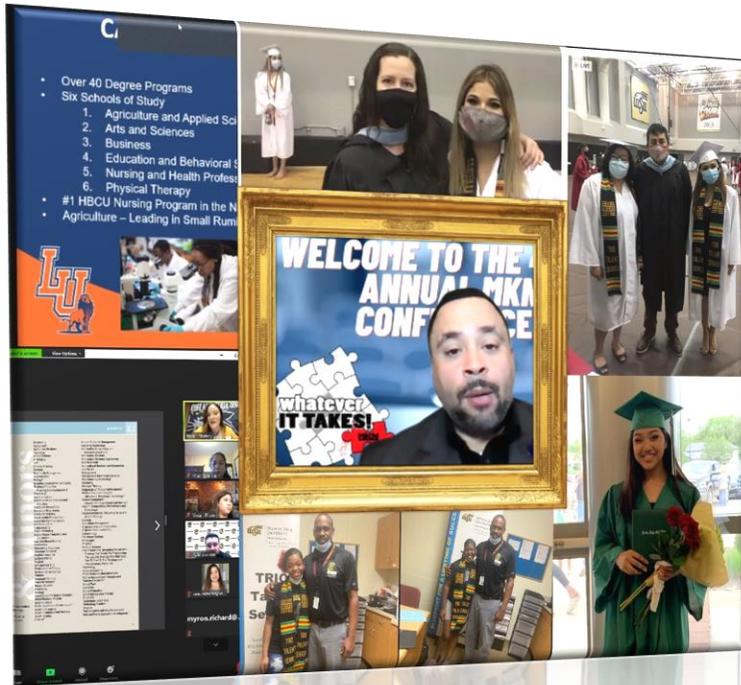


**Sept.** – Employee Training; College Jump Start  
**Nov.** – Paradigm Shift Activities, Give Something Back Scholarship Information Sessions, and Escape Room Activities



**Dec.** – National TRIO Day  
 Community Service Activity:  
 Free Local Little Library  
 Book Donations  
**Jan.** – Baker University  
 Virtual Campus Visit  
**Feb.** – Newman University  
 Virtual Campus Visit





**Mar.** – Langston University  
(HBCU) Virtual Campus Visit

**Apr.** – Fort Hays State University  
Virtual Campus Visit; MKN  
Annual Conference

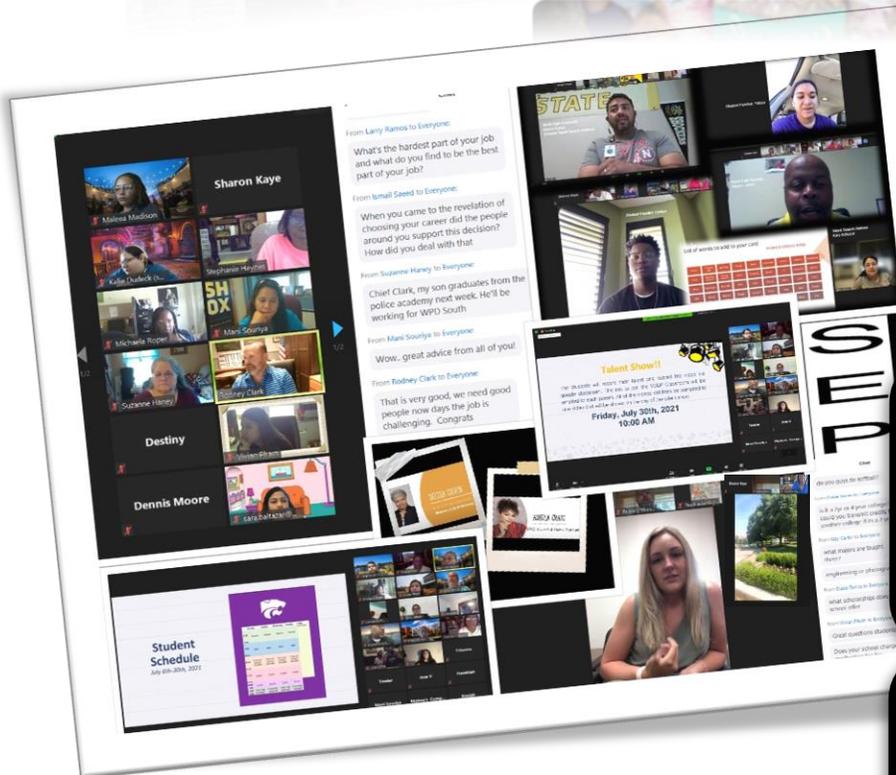
**May** – Graduations



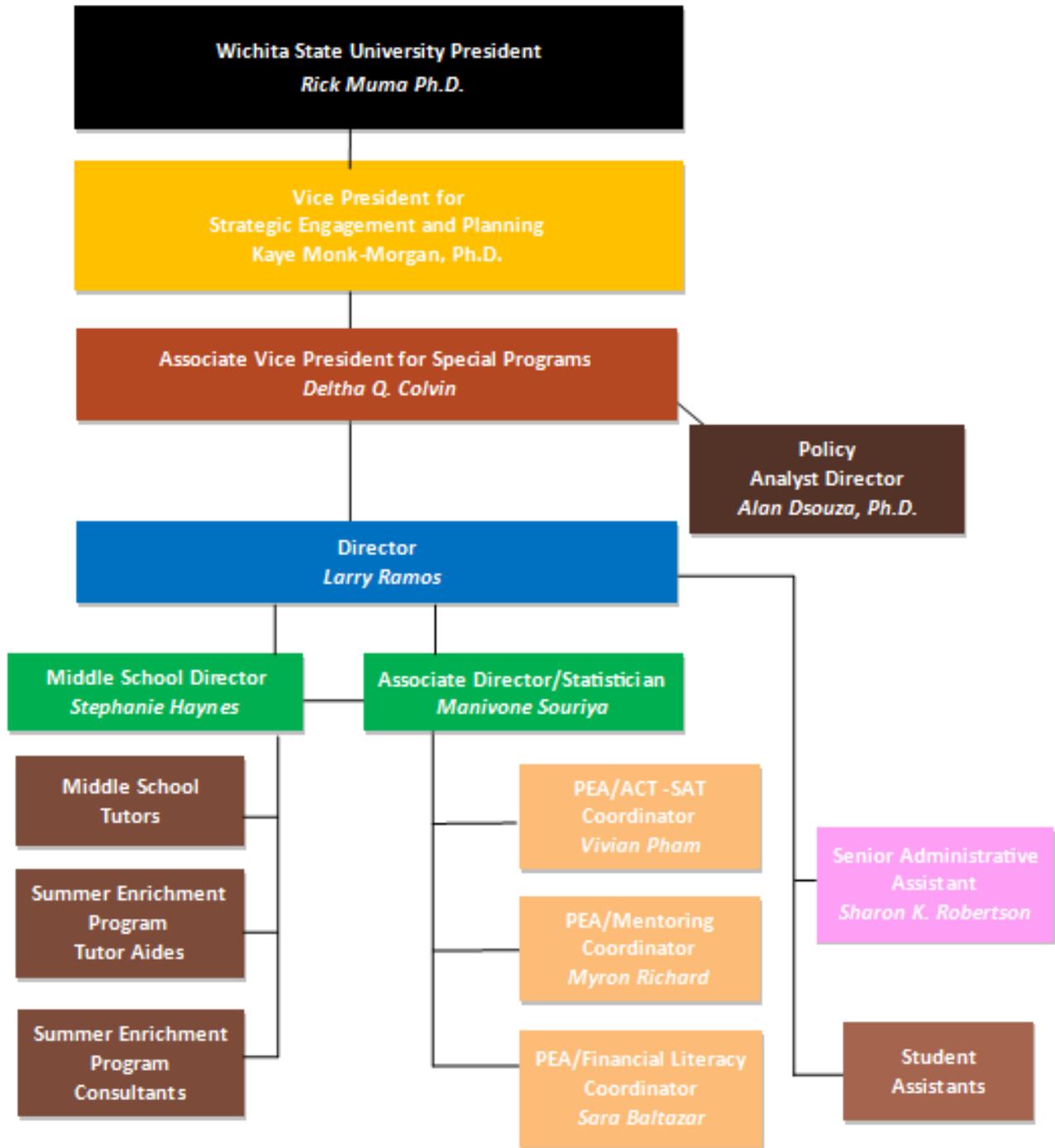
**Jun.** – Music Theatre of Wichita:  
Mirette; Virtual Middle School Summer  
Enrichment Program (VSEP) Session 1

**Jul.** – VSEP Session 2

**Aug.** – Staff Team Building Activities



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

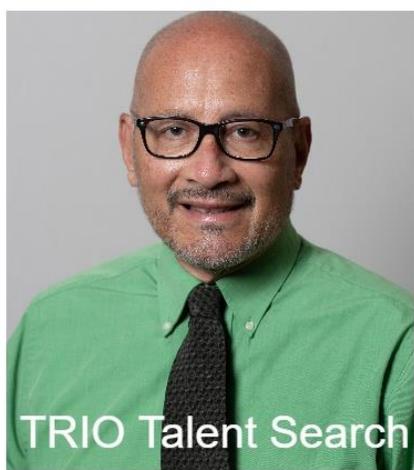


# PROGRAM STAFF



*Stephanie Haynes,*  
Middle School Director

*Sara Baltazar,*  
Program Educational  
Advisor/Financial  
Literacy Coordinator



*Larry Ramos,*  
Program Director

*Myron Richard,*  
Program  
Educational  
Advisor/Mentoring  
Coordinator



*Sharon Robertson,*  
Senior Administrative  
Assistant

*Vivian Pham,*  
Program Educational  
Advisor/ACT & SAT  
Coordinator

*Mani Souriya,*  
Associate  
Director/Statistician

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