

Outstanding Alum

Billy
Dempsey Jr.



Billy Dempsey Jr. entered the TRIO Talent Search (TS) program in 2003 as a seventh grader attending Holy Savior Catholic Academy in Wichita, KS. Since Holy Savior was not a TS target school, the program selected him on a walk-in basis. The parochial school is situated in a predominantly low-income African American neighborhood.

In 2008, Dempsey graduated from Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School and entered Wichita State that same year. He majored in computer science, and worked as a tutor for TS tutoring math and other subjects to middle school students. During this time, he gained valuable experience being an IT specialist for the Kids Training Team at WSU.

In 2015, Dempsey graduated from WSU and became an application support analyst for INVISTA-Koch Industries. In this role, he provides systems analysis support to private companies and governmental facilities in the U.S. and abroad. When asked how his experiences in TRIO impacted his educational and professional life, he indicated that he was able to more readily apply what he learned in class and develop a “great work ethic.” Dempsey advises students to work on critical thinking and problem solving skills as keys to future success.

Dempsey is a shining example of how the program works at its very best. He believes so much in the program mission that he mentors current TS students.

Rising Star

Shamya
McCoy



Shamya McCoy is making the most of her time as she ponders her future. While very serious, Shamya is having a lot of fun taking advantage of all the opportunities that have been presented to her. She has been a student in TS since the eighth grade. Currently, a senior at Wichita Southeast High School, she plans to attend Wichita State next year to study physics and engineering. Shamya is always challenging herself and chooses to take rigorous courses such as honors and advanced placement chemistry, physics, and calculus. She maintains a 3.68 grade point average, is on the honor roll and actively involved with the Theater/Thespian Society. She also volunteers for Operation Holiday, is a freshmen mentor at her high school, and has a job.

Shamya’s strong work ethic, positive attitude, and respectful demeanor has opened many opportunities. TS counselor, Tahmina Rahman, nominated her to attend the Girls in STEM conference held at WSU. Tremendously moved by the experience, Shamya said, “When I went home Sunday afternoon, I felt enlightened and motivated about STEM, to keep pushing to become the chemical engineer or physicist engineer I know I can be. The journey will not be easy, but I know I have the will power and ability to achieve that goal and so much more.” Through TS, Shamya has received college applications assistance, attended ACT preparation workshops, and assistance in applying for scholarships.