

## GEAR UP Rising Stars

### North Wichita GEAR UP

Francisco  
Garcia



**F**rancisco Garcia is an exceptional, model student. He is doing well in classes and his grades reflect the hard work he has devoted to school.

Francisco enjoys playing football for his school and participates in JROTC drill. Also a member of a Mexican traditional dance troupe, Garcia is an aspiring and talented musician. He plays the alto saxophone, piano, guitar, drums, accordion and bajo sexto; a Mexican string guitar instrument. As part of Conjunto Zairo, a Mexican band, he performs at quinceañeras, weddings, birthdays, concerts, and dances in Wichita and in other states while keeping his grades up.

Francisco is an outstanding citizen who gives free music lessons to community youth. One of his music students has lung issues and was advised by his doctor to play an instrument. Francisco has spent many hours with this student providing encouragement while teaching him to play and appreciate music.

Usually found with his head up and a smile on his face, he makes sure to motivate and inspire others to do the same. His favorite quote that he tailors to his life comes from President John F. Kennedy who said, “Things do not happen. Things are made to happen.”

### South Wichita GEAR UP

Alexander  
James



**A**lexander James is a freshman at Wichita South High School. He has been a part of South Wichita GEAR UP (SWGU) since the spring of 2014. James currently maintains a 3.9 grade point average while serving as the Freshman Student Council vice president. He has attended summer camps at Emporia State University and online tutoring. He has also been named the SWGU Student of the Month.

The work Alex has been doing and continues to do shows that he is dedicated to completing high school and going on to postsecondary education. The courses he is taking are preparing him for his future. He aspires to a career in the Secret Service. He goes out of his way to be respectful and seeks additional help with classes during the school year and summer.

SWGU has impacted Alex's life by giving him experiences he would not normally receive in order to prepare his future and college life. He has won two of SWGU's educational awards and uses them to further his knowledge inside and outside of the classroom.

Alex would advise future students to take advantage of all GEAR UP programs because “they are here to help one succeed.” He goes on to say, “To the staff of SWGU, keep it up, you are making a difference in your students' lives. Thank you!”