

## Rising Star

Layla  
Berry



## Outstanding Alum

Robbin  
Davis



**U**pward Bound Wichita Prep (UBWP) is proud to announce that Layla Berry as its TRIO achiever for 2016-2017. As a senior at Heights High School, Berry is working on scholarships and carefully weighing her options for college. Her top choices are the University of Kansas and Wichita State.

The Upward Bound staff are excited for Layla as she is about to begin the next chapters in life. As the staff reflect over Layla's UBWP chapter, she has transformed from a quiet mouse to a roaring lion, ready to state her opinion. Layla entered UBWP as a rising ninth grader, quiet, shy and her voice barely audible.

During Layla's first summer production her contributions consisted of taking pictures, as there was no way she was getting on stage. After her first year, Layla's mother reported she was glad that her daughter was in UBWP. Now, Layla has new friends and is open to new experiences. Layla is the life of UBWP, the connector, organizing the students for social gatherings. She is in touch with those who have graduated, as well as the younger "children." That's what she calls the underclassmen, as she too refers to herself as "just a child".

Layla takes education seriously; she maintains a 3.58 grade point average. Her humor and outgoing personality makes everyone smile, laugh, and sometimes shake their heads. Layla Berry, TRIO Achiever today, POTUS tomorrow.

**R**obbin Davis, a 1985 alumnus of UBWP, graduated from Langston University in 1988 and returned to WSU to pursue a master's degree. It was then that she volunteered for Upward Bound. While volunteering, she was selected as the program's communications instructor—a position she held until the summer of 2016. Davis also served as coordinator for Upward Bound's 50th anniversary in 2015.

While teaching in the humanities department for Butler Community College, she received the "Teaching Excellence Award." Davis taught for 22 years at Cowley Community College. During her tenure, she always reserved her summers to teach for Upward Bound—her passion. Davis has been involved with the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) for 20 years. She served as Pastor of St. James AME church in Wellington, KS and Pastor of Bethel AME church in Hutchinson, KS where she also serves as vice-president for the Ministerial Alliance and youth coordinator for the NAACP. Currently, Davis is a motivational speaker traveling throughout the nation presenting workshops on diversity, the power of enthusiasm, women's self-worth, creating and maintaining a healthy mind, body, and soul, dealing with difficult people, and working optimistically in the workplace.

Happily married and having reared three successful daughters, Davis contributes much of her spiritual, educational and professional successes to Upward Bound. She learned great study habits, a healthy level of self-esteem and an attitude to never give up. Upward Bound molded her life and she vows to continue to be a positive impact on the youth.