

TRIO Talent Search 2014 - 2015 Annual Report



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Message from the Director: Larry Ramos



It gives me tremendous pleasure to introduce this annual report, which marks the 38th year of the program's existence in opening doors to educational opportunities for low income and potential first generation college students. While the results in this report are outstanding, the staff is keenly aware that they serve only a small fraction of the eligible student population in the target area (Wichita Public Schools). There are many more students who could benefit from the program and the services offered. The staff had to keep this in mind as they made some difficult decisions based on which students they felt might benefit the most from the program and which students would take full advantage of all program services. Given the results, it appears the program staff did a superb job in identifying and selecting students who demonstrated exemplary commitment to their educational goals.

Again, a higher percentage of graduates enrolled in a four-year postsecondary institution than a two-year program. The ultimate goal is for students to enter and complete a baccalaureate. Talent Search counselors are to be commended for preparing and giving students the confidence to enroll in major institutions. The expectation is that these students will receive a college degree within six years from the first time they enter postsecondary school.

The Middle School Summer Enrichment Program, supported in part by a College Access Challenge Grant, is one of the first ways that the program begins to prepare students, and their parents, for postsecondary education. The summer program continues to gain momentum and is now one of the premier summer programs in the Wichita metro area.

The program has widespread support from the university, including President John Bardo, former Vice President for Student Affairs Wade Robinson, and current Vice President Eric Sexton. The program reports to Associate Vice President for Special Programs Deltha Q. Colvin. The support these individuals provide is important to the success of the program and ensures its longevity. Colvin is responsible for the Office of Disability Services, three Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, and nine TRIO programs housed at Wichita State University. Her 40 plus years in providing leadership and vision sustain the programs and will continue to do so for years to come.

Program Description

TRIO Talent Search is the TRIO program created under the Higher Education Act of 1965. 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 and Veterans Upward Bound.

For the 2014-2015 academic year, Talent Search was awarded funding in the amount of \$513,873 from the U.S. Department of Education. The program was awarded a \$140,000 College Access Challenge Grant from the Kansas Board of Regents to support the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program, increase the number and scope of campus visits during the year, offer additional workshops on financial literacy and ACT preparation, and increase services provided during the Homework Assistance Program. Finally, the Kansas Department of Education awarded the program a grant in the amount of \$1,192 for a summer food service program, which provided a nutritious breakfast to students attending the Summer Enrichment Program.

The program is housed on the Wichita State University main campus. The program employed a full-time director, associate director/statistician, middle school director, three educational development assistants, 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 professional staff development, equipment, supplies and other operating expenditures to allow the program to serve students at a high level.

Mission Statement

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 and pursue postsecondary education.

Program Goals and Objectives

Program Goals and Objectives

In 2011, the program was given the option of using the approved goals and objectives as stated in the grant proposal or adopting the mandatory program objectives developed by the U.S. Department of Education. The program opted to respond to the mandatory objectives and identify percentages based on the approved grant.

Secondary School Persistence:

Ninety 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 99.9 percent

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 100 percent

Secondary School Graduation: (Rigorous Secondary School Program of Study)

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

The program achieved 26 percent

Postsecondary 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 80 percent

Postsecondary Education Enrollment:

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 will be required to report on this objective in 2016.

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' educational success, 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 assisted eighth grade students in making a successful transition from middle school to high school. Graduating seniors were advised on 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.

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 and to complete the FAFSA. Program counselors reviewed applications and students were advised of admission application fee waivers and grants for TRIO participants available at many colleges and universities. Workshops were offered throughout the year providing students information on financial literacy, scholarships and other related topics. The program held a day-long workshop titled FAFSA Finish Line. The workshop was held on a district in-service day, so students could attend the workshop and complete the FAFSA.

Assistance in preparing for college entrance examinations

Program counselors advised students on preparing for the ACT and SAT exams. The program's resource library houses study guides and practice test materials. Counselors advised students on test taking strategies, good study habits, what to expect on exam day, and other topics in order to help prepare students for exams. ACT and SAT registration fee waivers were provided to students who met limited income guidelines. For the fourth year, Talent Search helped sponsor the district-wide ACT workshops with USD 259 and the Wichita State University Counseling and Testing Center. Students were administered the ACT ENGAGE to help assess students' self-reported psychosocial attributes, determine their levels of academic risk, and identify potential interventions. Counselors reviewed the survey results with students to help them achieve success.

Mentoring and career counseling

Students met with program staff for mentoring relationships after school. Students could talk about any concerns they had regarding school, home life, or express their ideas for future goals. Workshops were conducted in middle schools, high schools and community agencies on career and educational opportunities. This year, Talent Search sponsored two students to attend the First Lady's "Beating the Odds" Summit at the White House in Washington, DC. The summit gathered more than 130 students across the country as part of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Reach Higher" initiative, aiming to expand educational resources for college-bound students who have to overcome a myriad of barriers to achieve higher education.

Tutorial services and Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) for middle school students

Tutoring and homework assistance was provided to program students. The program maintained a staff of five tutors to supplement learning for math and other subjects. During the summer, 75 students were selected for the program's Summer Enrichment Program (SEP). The SEP was held on the WSU campus and students attended classes for math, language arts, theatre arts, science, financial literacy/life skills and computer technology. During SEP, students took the ACT ENGAGE survey and discussed results with program counselors to form future study plans. Students attended educational field trips and campus visits. Motivational speakers were invited to challenge students. At the end of the summer program, students participated in a talent showcase and awards and recognition ceremony.

Guidance on secondary school re-entry or entry to other programs leading to a secondary school diploma or its equivalent

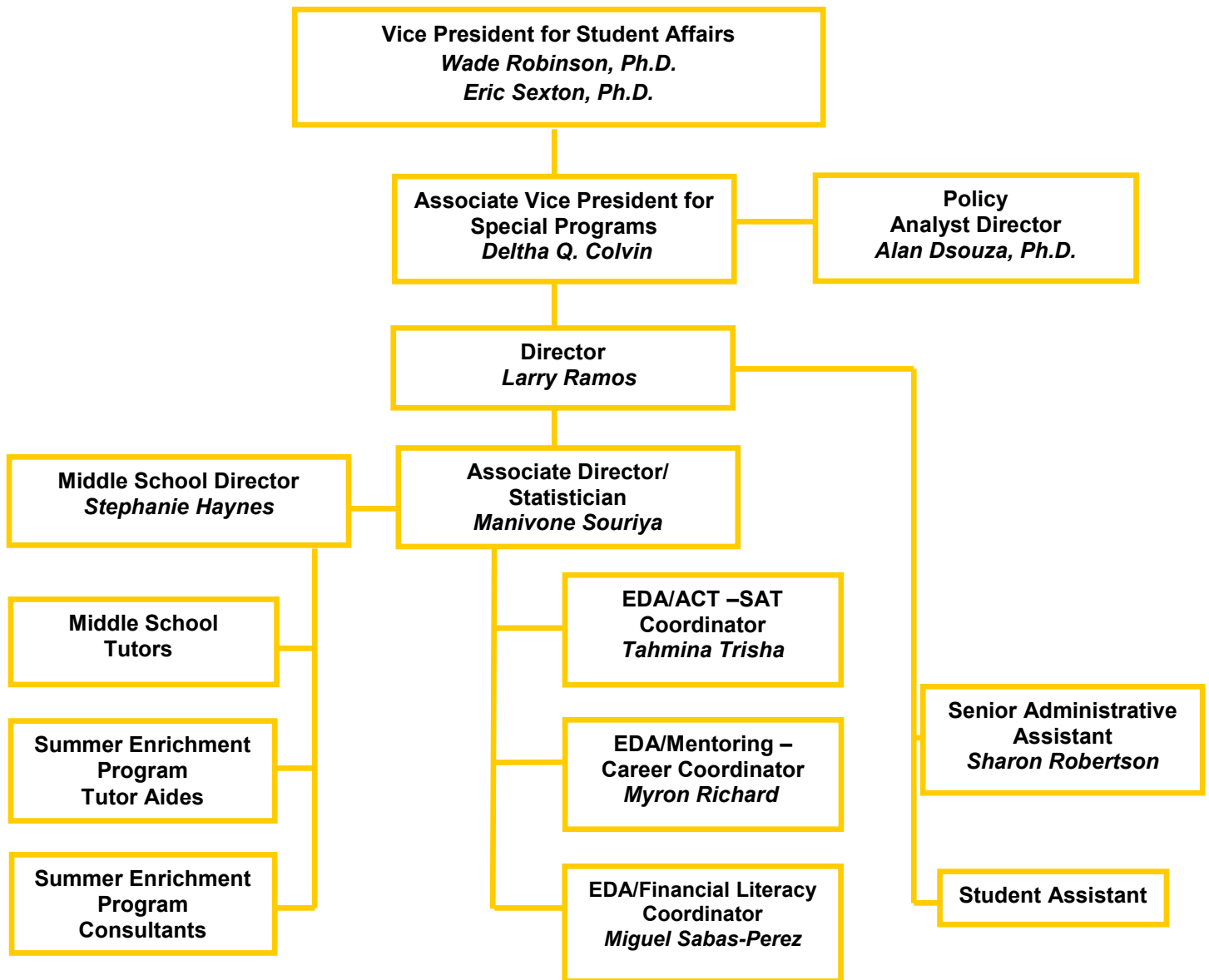
Program counselors assisted students who have dropped out of high school to re-enter school or enroll in an alternative education program. The purpose of this support was to assist students in receiving their high school diploma, high school equivalency, or GED so that they could become eligible to apply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



Campus visits

Students had the opportunity to go on campus visits throughout the year to learn about admissions, financial aid, housing options, majors and other college-related matters. The program took students to in-state and out-of-state postsecondary institutions.

Organizational Chart



Program Staff



Front Row: (left to right) Sharon Robertson, Tahmina Trisha, Mani Souriya, and Stephanie Haynes
Back Row: (left to right): Larry Ramos , Myron Richard, and Miguel Sabas-Perez

Talent Search Staff:

Larry Ramos,
Director

Manivone Souriya,
Associate Director/Statistician

Stephanie Haynes,
Middle School Director

Myron Richard,
Educational Development
Assistant/Mentoring-Career
Coordinator

Tahmina Trisha,
Educational Development
Assistant/ACT-SAT
Coordinator

Miguel Sabas-Perez,
Educational Development
Assistant/Financial Aid
Coordinator

Sharon Robertson,
Senior Administrative Assistant

Year at a Glance

Talent Search participates in various educational and cultural activities. The timeline highlights some of the year's activities.

SEPTEMBER



Jump Start

OCTOBER



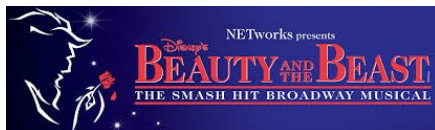
K-State Campus Visit

NOVEMBER



KASFAA Financial Aid Workshop

DECEMBER



Date: Tuesday, December 16
Time: 7:00 pm (show starts at 7:30 pm sharp!)
Location: Century II (225 W Douglas Ave)
Dress: Business Casual

Cultural Enrichment Activity

JANUARY



Cowley/WATC Campus Visit

FEBRUARY



FASFA Finish Line

MARCH



OKC Spring Break Trip

APRIL



Mentoring Project

MAY



MAEOPP Girls in STEM Pre-College Student Leadership Conference

JUNE



Summer Enrichment Program
Session I: New Orleans College Road Trip

JULY



Summer Enrichment Program
Session II: Talent Showcase

AUGUST



ACT Prep Workshop

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- ⇒ **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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TRIO Talent Search/Project Discovery is 100% funded by the United States Department of Education and is hosted by Wichita State University. Funds for 2014-2015 were \$513,873.