

2015 - 2016 Annual Report TRIO Talent Search



National TRIO Day



First Lady Summit



Last Day at Robinson



Will Haygood Presentation



Summer Enrichment Program

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FAFSA Finish Line

Message from the Director: Larry Ramos

This report is the final one for the grant cycle 2011-2016. The contents of this final report include information and highlights pertaining to the 2015-2016 grant year only. All other reports for each of the years covering the grant cycle may be found on the TRIO Talent Search website (www.wichita.edu/talentsearch).



Over the course of the grant year, the program has experienced great success in working with the students, parents, community partners, and targeted schools. The staff performed beyond expectations and assisted a high number of seniors (220) to graduate from high school and enroll in postsecondary institutions. Ninety-eight percent of the seniors graduated, and to date, nearly 60 percent of the graduates have enrolled in a two-year or four-year postsecondary program of study. There is still much follow-up to do on other students and their plans for college enrollment; however, the progress the program has made thus far exceeds the proposed objectives.

For example, 99 percent of the participants who were not seniors have returned to school in fall 2016. In order to graduate from high school, students must return to school each year. The program was successful in motivating the vast majority of students to devote the kind of focus and energy that is necessary to advance to the next level of their education. Whether the cause of this high percentage can be attributed to the weekly visits the staff made to the students' schools, campus visits taken to outstanding institutions, college placement test preparation workshops, after-school tutoring, mentoring activities, financial aid workshops, or a combination of services, the prevailing effect is that the students were more than moderately successful. This is a testament to the commitment and passion the staff have for low income and potential first generation college students.

Several students were selected to participate in special activities and/or events that the program deems of great value. Five young ladies were supported to attend the Educational Opportunity Association's Girls in STEM Conference held at Wichita State. This experience provided enormous inspiration to the students as they were able to share dreams and aspirations with other like-minded students from across the country. The conference helped these students to realize that the only walls to living out their dreams lie between their ears. They learned that STEM college majors and careers are not exclusive to males. In the summer, two program students were selected to attend the First Lady's Beating the Odds Summit held at the White House. The experience of being in the White House and being within arm's length of First Lady Michelle Obama was something that each will never forget. As the awe of being in the White House was put aside, the students learned what college might offer in the way of challenges from college students who wanted to share their experiences.

Special thanks to **President John Bardo** for understanding how important the program is in fulfilling the university's mission with regard to diversity. Also, former Vice President for Student Affairs **Eric Sexton, Ph.D.** and Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs **Anthony Vizzini, Ph.D.** are to be commended for their support of the program during the grant year. In closing, it would be neglectful to not mention the vision, guidance, and support of the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, Special Programs **Deltha Q. Colvin**. Her experience and expert knowledge have ensured the program's success for decades. All of the TRIO programs, GEAR UP programs, and Office of Disability Services report to her. As a result, Wichita State is among the nation's leaders in providing services to disadvantaged populations including those with disabilities and our veterans.

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 2015-2016 academic year, Talent Search was awarded funding in the amount of \$513,873 from the U.S. Department of Education. This grant supports the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program, campus visits during the academic year, workshops on financial literacy and ACT preparation, and services provided during the After School Tutoring Program. In addition, the Kansas Department of Education awarded the program a grant in the amount of \$917 for a summer food service program, which provided a nutritious breakfast to students attending the Summer Enrichment Program. The remaining balance of the 2014-2015 College Access Challenge Grant from the Kansas Board of Regents was used to cover expenses for the summer consultants and the college road trips to St. Louis and Kansas City.

The program is housed on the Wichita State main campus. The program employs a full-time director, associate director/statistician, middle school director, three educational development assistants, 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.



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, enroll in post-secondary education, and complete a postsecondary program.

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 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 98 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 15 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 58 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 2017.

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 assisted eighth grade students in making a successful transition from middle school 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. The program supported students to attend the Girls in STEM conference held at Wichita State and Michelle Obama's "Beating the Odds Summit" held at the White House.

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 called FAFSA Finish Line.

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. 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. The program collaborated with the WSU Counseling and Testing Center to register numerous students for ACT test preparation workshops held throughout the year.

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 offered students the chance to hear Wil Haygood, author of *The Butler*. Haygood shared his experience as a TRIO Upward Bound alumna whose second chances in life led to extraordinary opportunities, including a successful career in journalistic reporting and a movie named after his critically acclaimed book *The Butler*.

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 four tutors for math and other subjects. During the summer, 50 students were selected for the program's Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) held on the WSU campus. Students attended classes for math, language arts, theatre arts, science, financial literacy/life skills and computer technology. During the 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 while motivational speakers challenged 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

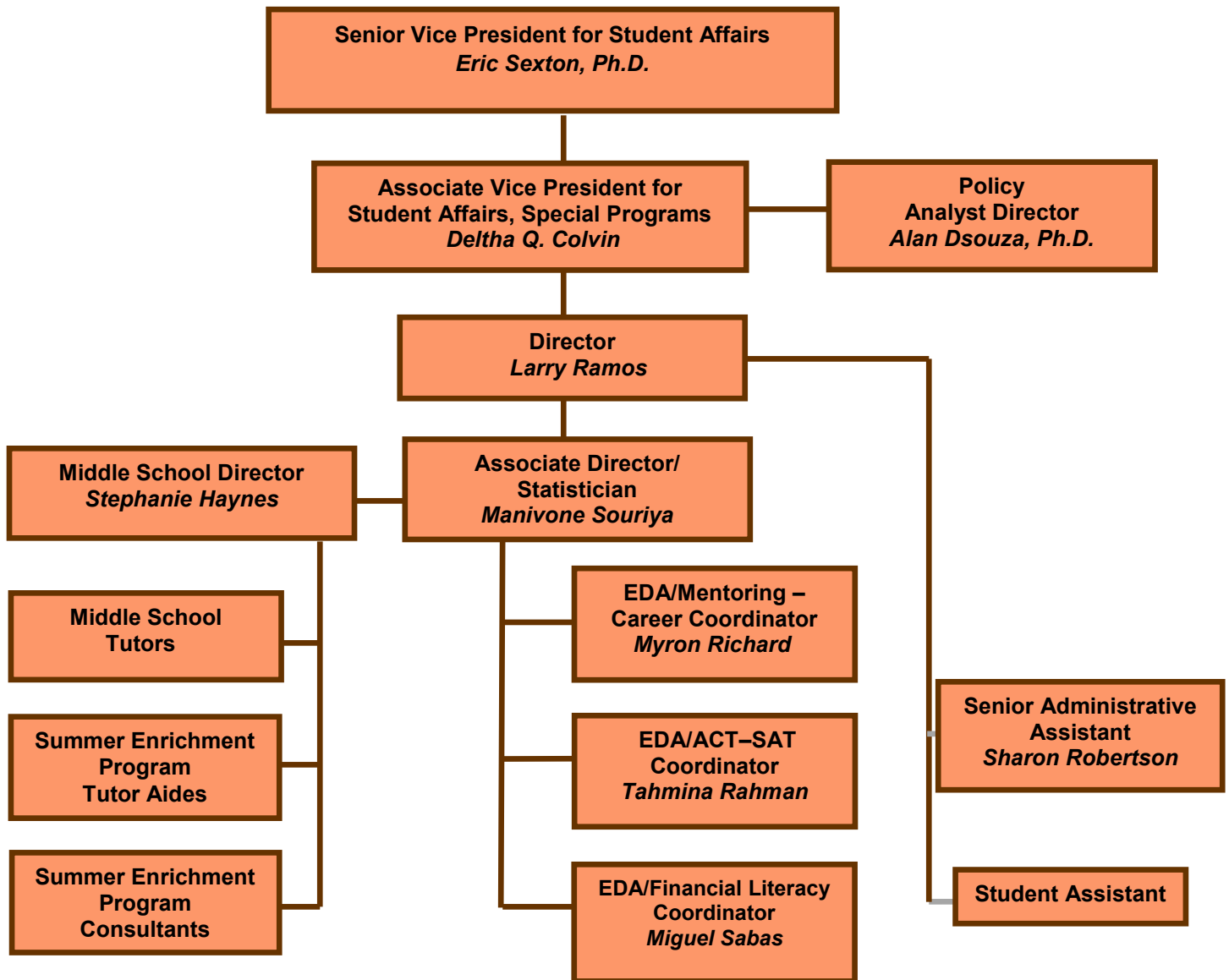
Program counselors offered advice to students who had dropped out of high school to re-enter school or enroll in an alternative education program. The purpose of this support was to assist students in receiving their high school diplomas, high school equivalency, or GED so that they could become eligible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

Campus visits

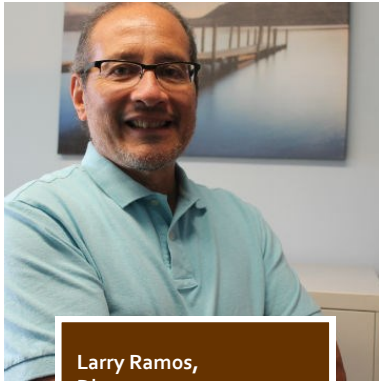
Students had the opportunity to go on campus visits throughout the year to learn about admissions, financial aid, housing options, majors and other college-related matters. The program took students to in-state and out-of-state postsecondary institutions.



Organizational Chart



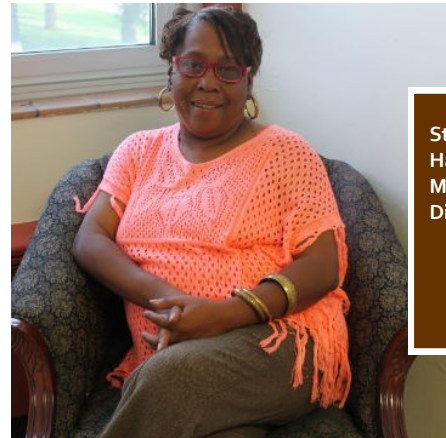
Program Staff



Larry Ramos,
Director



Manivone Souriya,
Associate Director/
Statistician



Stephanie
Haynes,
Middle School
Director



Myron Richard,
Educational Development
Assistant/Mentoring-Career
Coordinator



Tahmina
Rahman,
Educational
Development
Assistant/ACT-
SAT
Coordinator



Sharon Robertson,
Senior
Administrative
Assistant



Miguel Sabas,
Educational
Development
Assistant/Financial
Aid
Coordinator

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



Emporia State University
Campus Visit

NOVEMBER



University of Kansas
Campus Visit

DECEMBER



Butler CCC Campus Visit

JANUARY




TRIO Training, Las Vegas

FEBRUARY



National TRIO Day at WSU

MARCH	APRIL	MAY
		
Career Workshop at Wilbur Middle School	Kansas State University Campus Visit	EOA Girls in STEM Pre-College Student Leadership Conference
JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
		
Summer Enrichment Program: Community Service	Summer Enrichment Program: Theatre Arts Class	ACT Prep Workshop

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This CD features an audio introduction



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TRIO Talent Search is 100% funded by the United States Department of Education and is hosted by Wichita State University. Funds for 2015-2016 were \$513,873.