

April 2017



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

# Special Programs

M A G A Z I N E



To learn more about  
Wichita State University  
Special Programs and  
TRIO Day 2017 go to:  
[wichita.edu/triodayezine](http://wichita.edu/triodayezine)



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Collage



Deltha Q. Colvin, Associate Vice  
President for Student Affairs

**T**RIO Day 2017 program was a major success. The day began with the College Access, Retention and Success (CARS) program where university and community members came out to learn about the programs under the Office of Special Programs. Everyone who attended said they enjoyed what was shared and learned a great deal about the programs. Most went away with a better understanding of the programs and a deeper appreciation for what they do.

The honorees, staff, and guests gathered for a reception to honor former participants and show them how proud the programs are for their accomplishments. The banquet was phenomenal and was loved by the attendees. It was an opportunity for former students to share how the programs had impacted their lives which led to their successes. They won the hearts of the audience. Numerous acknowledgments and thanks were received for a great and excellent event.

President John Bardo, PhD asked Marche Fleming-Randle, PhD to share welcoming remarks on his behalf, and Vice President Teri Hall, PhD thanked the participants for their attendance and support of the programs. Mayor Jeff Longwell shared praise for the programs and read the City's National TRIO Day Proclamation.

Four former directors were Building Bridges honorees. The programs are proud they were participants and have continued making major contributions in the lives of the students. Their honor was well-received by the audience. Each Building Bridges honoree did an outstanding job in sharing their story and the impact the programs had on their lives. The audience held on to every word. The programs are proud of each of them. The students are the reason behind the "honoring our own" banquet. The honorees are the reason for the programs and what the Office of Special

# Introduction

Programs stands for. Every aspect of the banquet went exceptionally well.

A big "thank you" to each staff, student, university person, and community member for making TRIO Day 2017 a phenomenal success. Please let the former participants know and the programs know how important they are to the community. If anyone knows the contact information for a former participant, please contact the office and share. Make plans to join the celebration in 2018 to honor the students again.

Deltha Q. Colvin  
Associate Vice President for Student Affairs



Special Programs Ezine Committee Members:  
Larry Ramos (Chair), Travis Feeney, Ashley Cervantes, Alan Dsouza, PhD, and Maria Lucas

# Distinguished

# Alumni

A presentation honored TRIO alumni who are now employed as Office of Special Programs directors. Deltha Colvin made the surprise presentation at the National TRIO Day banquet. Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd, Wilma Holloway, Rhonda Hicks, and Shukura Bakari-Cozart were truly flattered by the words of praise and award Colvin gave to them. A brief bio of each director appears below.



## Rhonda K. Hicks



Hicks was a participant in TRIO Talent Search while a student at South High School. When she came to Wichita State, she joined TRIO Student Support Services and graduated in 1995. She worked in WSU's Admissions for two years and the American Heart Association for one year. She returned to Wichita State in 1991

to become the associate director of TRIO Upward Bound Wichita Prep (UBWP). Hicks completed a master's degree in management information systems at Friends University in 2006. She was promoted to director of UBWP in 2012.

## Wilma Holloway



Holloway was a TRIO Upward Bound student at Forest Park Community College in St. Louis, MO. She later attended Emporia State University before earning her bachelor's degree from Wichita State. She earned a master's degree from Friends University. She worked for eight years with the TRIO Talent Search Program at

WSU and 11 years with the Wichita school district. Five of those years were spent with the district's GEAR UP program. She has since returned to WSU serving as director of the Homework Assistance Program for the past five years.

## Shukura Bakari-Cozart



Bakari-Cozart obtained a bachelor's degree from Wichita State in 1997. As a student, she participated in TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) and the TRIO McNair Scholars Program. In 2000, she received a master's degree in education and hired as the academic advisor for SSS where she remained for

three years. She began working for the McNair Scholars Program in 2003, first as program counselor, then as the assistant director. In 2013, she became director of Veterans Upward Bound. During her tenure with the TRIO programs, Bakari-Cozart has been involved with the state professional association serving in various capacities.

## Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd



Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd joined TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) as a student and student assistant in 1991. In 1995 she participated in the McNair Scholars Program which led to her completing a master's degree from Wichita State in 1998. She was hired by SSS as the database manager/academic advisor in 2000

and promoted to associate director in 2002. In 2014, Souriya-Mnirajd became the associate director of Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP, the state-wide grant, and just recently promoted to director of TRIO Disability Support Services. Currently, she is pursuing a doctorate with hopes to complete it by 2019.



**T**he Office of Special Programs (OSP) sponsored the College Access, Retention and Success (CARS) Conference in the Wichita State Rhatigan Student Center on February 21, 2017. Approximately 65 people attended the morning event that was held in conjunction with National TRIO Day.

McNair Scholars Program Director, LaWanda Holt-Fields, presided over the event and introduced Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Special Programs, Deltha Q. Colvin, who welcomed the audience and talked about the importance of TRIO and GEAR UP programs and Office of Disability Services. She emphasized the vital work that each department performs in creating educational opportunities for first-generation and low-income students, adults, veterans, and persons with disabilities.

The OSP staff presented a variety of sessions that addressed specific populations and various practices that have been found to be effective in bolstering students' academic, social, and emotional success. Larry Ramos, Stephanie Haynes and Vic Chavez presented a session that highlighted instructional and summer programming designed to reverse learning loss that occurs between school terms for middle school students. Kaye Monk-Morgan, Rhonda Hicks, and Carla Williams talked about the importance of Upward Bound services and activities including bridge programs that are effective in transitioning high school students to postsecondary education. Shukura Bakari-Cozart and Frances Ervin

presented a session on grit as it relates to adults and veterans and successful strategies that enhance college preparation for individuals who have been out of school for a length of time. Holt-Fields and Kennedy Musamali, EdD spoke about practices that support first-generation college students at WSU. They shared how the future demographic profile of students will change the college landscape. According to the presenters, in 20 years over 50 percent of students will be from minority groups and most of those students will be first-generation college students. Grady Landrum, Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd, and Corinne Nilsen discussed characteristics of high achieving students, in particular, foster care youth and students with disabilities. These students typically are not traditionally thought of as high achieving but the programs have experienced great success in addressing the specific needs of these populations.

The overwhelming response to the CARS conference was positive. Several attendees indicated how informative the sessions were, while many felt that they learned how the programs operate in tandem. Several WSU faculty, staff and Wichita Public Schools (USD 259) personnel were eager to share how much they enjoyed the presentations. After learning about all the diverse programs offered, Beth Regehr, Special Education, Student Support Services for USD 259 shared her intention to "refer more students to TRIO and GEAR UP." Norman Bent, WSU College of



OSP staff presented a variety of sessions about college access, retention, and success.



for future collaboration.” Not only were WSU faculty and staff impacted, but the OSP staff, many of whom were new professionals, also felt the event was a great eye-opener for them and their professional development. Alysa Parsons, site coordinator, South Wichita GEAR UP, said “it was beneficial to have the programs come together and share ideas to better support our students.”

Following presentations, the audience was guided to visit informational tables set up by each OSP department to learn more about the different services and activities offered. Staff, representing each program, was on hand to answer questions and share their thoughts on the significant contributions made by the programs. Audience members were enticed to visit as many tables as possible to qualify for the door prize drawing.



Colvin felt the event was excellent and commented how diverse each presentation was. She thought the presenters did a very good job of sharing best practices and engaging the audience. Evaluation results revealed that the attendees found the conference experience worthwhile and educational.

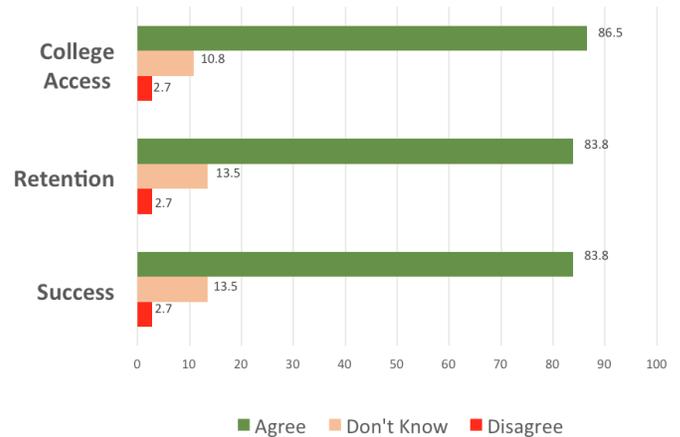
Conference attendees had the opportunity to speak with program staff from each OSP office following the presentations.

Engineering, was thoroughly impressed with the work that the programs are doing to help students be successful. “Today was a wonderful opportunity for the University community to know the good work that is going on to support underrepresented populations.” Bent went on to say, “the conference provided a picture of the circle of services offered by the programs.”

Organizers of the CARS conference had hoped that a number of faculty and staff who may not have been familiar with the various OSP departments would leave with a much clearer understanding of TRIO, GEAR UP and the Office of Disability Services. Susan Norton, WSU Office of Adult Learning, said, “I got a global perspective

## Evaluation

The CARS Conference increased my understanding of how special programs at WSU assist underserved students regarding...



# Honoring Our Own:

## Martha Lewis, A Beacon of Light

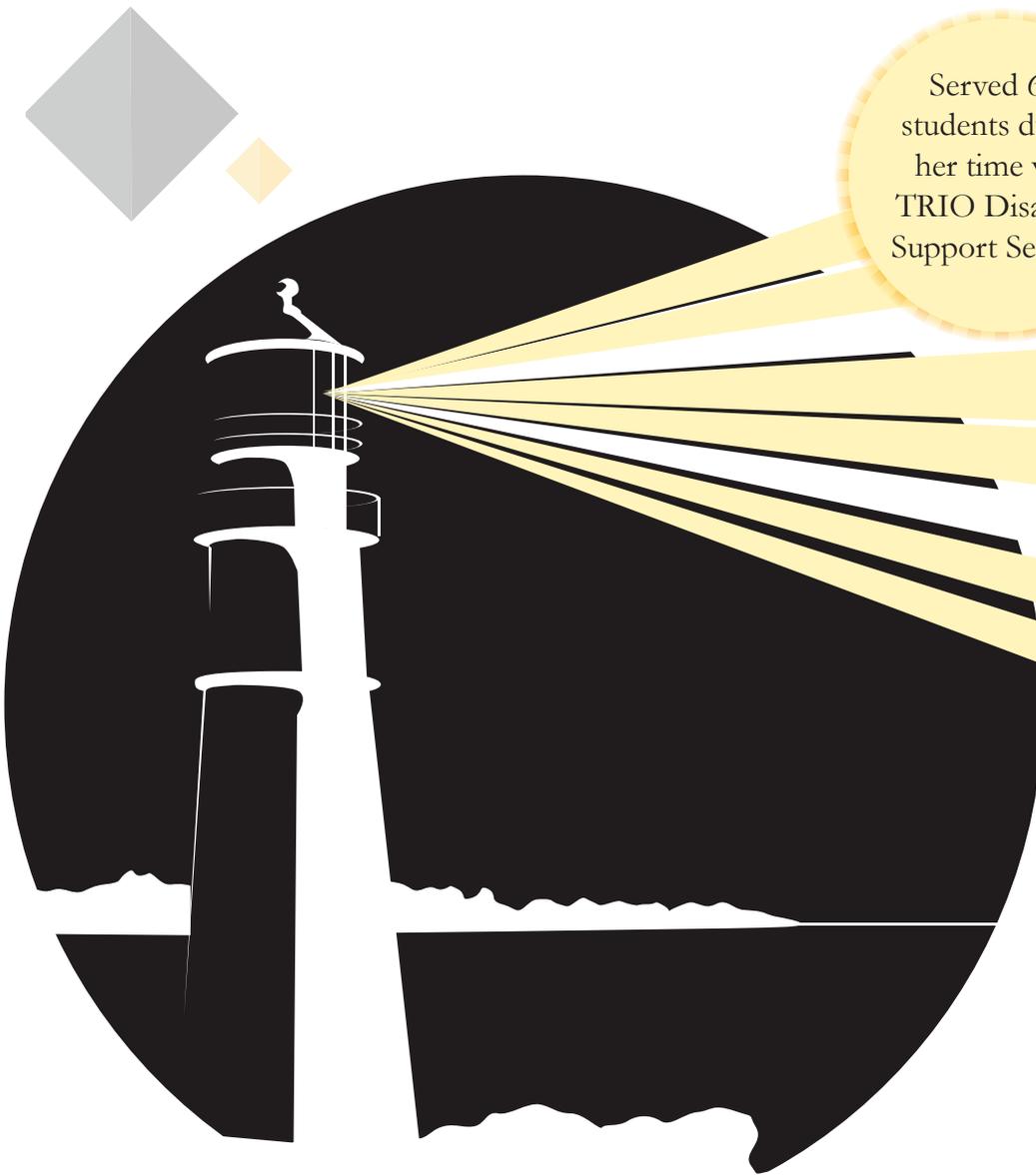
Martha L. Lewis, MSW retired from Wichita State University on December 31, 2016. She joined TRIO Disability Support Services in 2001 and has received numerous awards including the Phenomenal Woman Award, Leaders in Diversity Award and the Wayne Carlisle Distinguished Service Award. Lewis is a graduate of WSU, earning a BA in social work in 1995 and an MSW from the University of Kansas in 1996. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Soroptimist of Wichita, and she likes to bowl in her “spare” time. Martha’s favorite saying is “no kidding.” In addition, to being a wife and mom, she is a pastor’s wife and has been for 33 years. - Rhonda K. Lewis, PhD, professor of psychology, department chair



Served 696 students during her time with TRIO Disability Support Services

Helped procure \$373,784 for students in EOF scholarships and grant aid.

2016 President of the Wichita State University Women's Association



Martha, Phil Bowers and I started DSS from the ground up. Through our many moves, search for furniture and then student recruitment, Martha was always positive! She met every obstacle with a smile. When I was offered another position on campus, I was asked if Martha was ready to become director. Without hesitation, I said, "YES." She has done a wonderful job for over 15 years. – Corinne Nilsen, executive director, KKGU, former DSS director



Working with Martha Lewis was always a pleasure. Her sense of humor, her dedication to her students and staff, and fellow directors will be missed as we head into 2017. – Grady Landrum, director of Office of Disability Services

I began my career at WSU with Mrs. Lewis in 2005. She showed me by example how to work with people and how to grow people. Mrs. Lewis always had an open door for anyone needing guidance. Despite her hectic schedule, she always had a beautiful smile and a warm heart for her staff and students. She took the time and forced us to take the time to unplug and learn about each other. Best of all, at the end of every day, she made sure to thank us for our hard work. - Shanda Burch, former DSS admin. specialist/database manager



Martha helped to make sure that persons with disabilities were visible. She wanted participants to know how much she cared for their success and well-being. Martha let you know she loved her job and was inspired by those she assisted. - Deltha Q. Colvin





Wichita Mayor Jeff Longwell read the proclamation from the City of Wichita declaring the day National TRIO Day.

A scientist, teacher, psychologist, and IT specialist were among the few who were honored at the 2017 National TRIO Day banquet held in Beggs Ballroom at the Rhatigan Student Center. Directing the spotlight on TRIO, GEAR UP, and Office of Disability Services, alumni stole the show and certainly grabbed the attention of the 225 attendees. Each program selected former participants to receive the coveted Building Bridges Award. In addition, four other outstanding honorees, selected by the Associate Vice President Deltha Q. Colvin, were recognized as well.

Following the VIP reception, Colvin began the evening by welcoming the audience and speaking about notable TRIO alumni who have achieved at the highest level of their professions. She said, “Academy Award winner Viola Davis said that if it had not been for Upward Bound, she would not be where she is today. Davis shared that her interest in acting was fortified by the theatre arts classes she was exposed to while in Upward Bound.” Colvin also mentioned that other prominent TRIO alumni include actress Angela Bassett, writer and producer John Quinones, author and political analyst Donna Brazile, the late singer, songwriter, and record producer Luther Vandross, and journalist and author Wil Haygood. “Tonight, we honor individuals like those,” Colvin exclaimed.

Wichita State President John Bardo, PhD was unable to attend but Senior Assistant Dean and Assistant to the President for Diversity Marche Fleming-Randle, PhD gave the formal greeting from the university and acknowledged the great work of the programs and the leadership that Colvin exemplifies. Terri Hall, PhD vice president for Student Affairs gave a heartfelt welcome and words of inspiration.

## Office of Special Programs

# TRIO Day

# Banquet

She talked about her experience as a first generation college student, how one person can make a difference, and how the kinship she feels with the TRIO directors makes her proud of the work being done at WSU.

Upward Bound Math Science Center Director Kaye Monk-Morgan read Governor Sam Brownback’s proclamation declaring the day National TRIO Day. She was followed by Mayor Jeff Longwell who read the proclamation from the City of Wichita. Several guests in the audience were recognized by Student Support Services Director Kennedy Musamali, EdD including community leaders, WSU faculty and staff, and other dignitaries. North Wichita GEAR UP Executive Director Riccardo Harris gave the invocation prior to dinner. While the audience ate, a video of the programs was played showing the faces of the Office of Special Programs students and staff.

Contemp-Oh! Band provided an eclectic mix of smooth jazz and soulful sounds during dinner. The band’s leader and drummer, Hal Cozart, is a TRIO alumni. His daughter Kamaria, the band’s keyboard player, is a current TRIO Talent Search student. Their participation and the participation of all other TRIO and GEAR UP students and alumni made this event a special and significant celebration.

Delinda Royse, director of development for the Division of Student Affairs at Wichita State was honored with the TRIO Advocacy Award for her work with all the programs. Her tireless efforts to provide resources to the programs demonstrates the passion she has for students. For her support, she was presented with a gift basket on behalf of program directors and the associate vice president for



OSP Directors gather before the banquet.

Student Affairs. Her efforts to provide promotional and other resources are priceless because the programs, due to federal regulations, are restricted in purchasing certain items.

After Roysel's much deserved acknowledgement, the alumni of the programs were individually recognized. Each person was awarded a medallion and a plaque to commemorate the occasion. Vic Chavez, executive director, South Wichita GEAR UP, read a short biography of each recipient.

While on stage, the honorees expressed their gratitude to the programs and talked about how the program impacted their lives. Throughout the entire proceedings, the audience was held captive and awed by each alum.

*OSP Alumni Awardees*

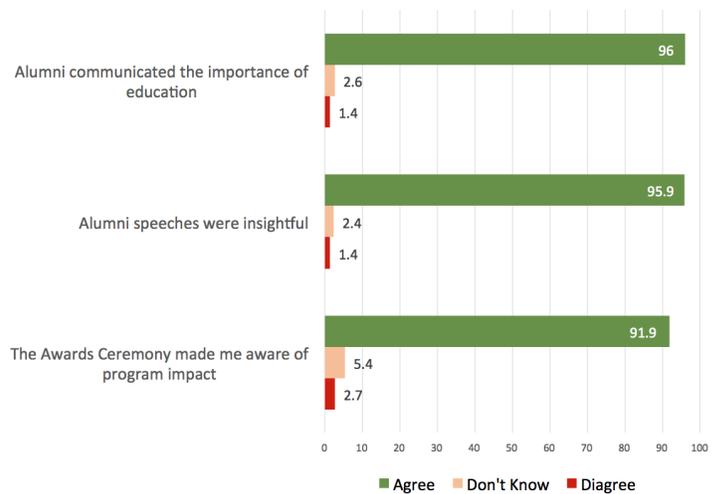
- **Amanda Griffith**, Communication Upward Bound
- **Rooshad Irani**, Disability Support Services
- **Kari Nilsen, PhD**, Educational Opportunity Centers Program
- **Abraham Rodriguez**, Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP
- **Amanda King**, Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP
- **Dalton Schoonover**, Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP
- **Meladee Garst, PhD**, McNair Scholars Program
- **Nick Taylor**, Office of Disability Services
- **Mikki Phan, PhD**, Student Support Services
- **Billy Dempsey Jr.**, Talent Search
- **Christina Kitzke**, Upward Bound Math Science
- **Robbin Davis**, Upward Bound Wichita Prep
- **Joseph Moore**, Veterans Upward Bound

*Associate Vice President Awardees*

- **Pamela Bradford Green**
- **Billy Dempsey Sr.**
- **Millicent Dempsey**
- **Phuoc Thai**

To close the evening's festivities, Colvin called each program director to the stage and acknowledged their efforts in supporting all the alumni and the current students. The directors were presented with a special medallion and received a boisterous applause from the audience. It was a fitting end to an absolutely beautiful event.

**Banquet Evaluation**



## Associate Vice President Awardees

Billy Dempsey



**B**illy Dempsey Sr. began his banking career at Mid Kansas Federal Savings and Loan. He started as a mailroom clerk and quickly moved to supervise the supply room and mailroom/supply operation. He helped numerous individuals who nurtured his goals and suggested taking a teller training class with the Institute of Financial Education. Dempsey participated in the employee development program gaining experience in every department in the bank. He became assistant branch manager before leaving the savings and loan.

Soon after, he began work at Fidelity Savings as a floating assistant manager. His work included mortgage loan officer and consumer loan officer. He also served as trainer for ECOA training.

Dempsey currently serves as customer service manager at several locations. He is currently responsible for the Bradley Fair Branch and managing six employees as well as the branch and personnel operations. Monthly and annual goals assigned to the branch include working with many of the local businesses.

Dempsey was in the Upward Bound program from 1978 – 1980, serving as president to the student body.

Midge Dempsey



**M**illicent (Midge) Dempsey is a registered nurse at Craig Home Care in Wichita. She received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City in 1989. Her nursing career has enabled her to work in the field of maternal child care, serving as nurse coordinator in the Healthy Babies Program. Currently providing direct services to clients, she provides information on pregnancy and developing positive parenting skills.

Dempsey has used her nursing skills working at Wesley Medical Center in the Post-Partum Unit, where she cared for and educated patients and family members during the patient's hospital stay. She has been a triage nurse for seven doctors at the Mid Kansas Women's Center.

She is a proud member of the Wichita Black Nurses Association and the National Black Nurses Association. As a member, she presented on the safe sleep research project that was published in May 2015. She actively assists in providing participants with education on prenatal care, nutrition, breastfeeding, dental hygiene, mental health, obtaining insurance coverage, utilizing community resources, and positive parenting. The safe sleep project collaborates with the KIDS Network of Kansas to ensure that every infant has a safe sleeping environment.

Dempsey is currently involved with the Mental Health Association of Wichita, Gerard House, and serves as parish nurse at St. James Missionary Baptist Church. She resides in Wichita with her husband and three sons.

## Pamela Bradford Green



**P**amela Bradford Green was born at home to James and Elizabeth Bradford in rural Mississippi where her grandparents were sharecroppers. In 1974, her parents moved the family to Wichita in search of a better life and job opportunities.

She was a TRIO Upward Bound Wichita Prep participant from 1985-1990 where she represented the program at several state conferences. She enjoyed participating in after school tutoring sessions, Saturday sessions, and the summer components. She was selected as mistress of ceremonies for three talent shows. Green graduated from Wichita East High School in 1990 and was awarded the Grow Your Own Teacher Scholarship.

After completing two years at Wichita State, Bradford Green decided to transfer to Newman University where she graduated with honors in 1994, majoring in elementary education. At the time, she was the first person in her immediate family to graduate from college.

Bradford Green is currently a 23-year veteran elementary school teacher in the Wichita public school system. She has taught pre-K, kindergarten, and first through fifth grades. In addition to teaching, she has served as elementary grade level chair, school age program para, school age program assistant director, school age program director, district trainer of trainers, transportation monitor, cooperating teacher, mentor teacher, site technology specialist, leadership team, after school program tutor, summer school teacher, safety patrol, yearbook coordinator, and AVID elementary classroom teacher. She also serves as the youth director and secretary at her church.

## Phuoc Thai



**F**uel technology is Aerospace Engineer Phuoc Thai's current research focus at NASA's John H. Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field in Cleveland, OH. Thai's research could lead to the development of fueling stations in space, a first step toward long-term human exploration missions beyond low Earth orbit. Thai's area of expertise is in microgravity behavior.

As a youth, Thai remembers desperately wanting an education. However, he did not want one provided by the communist regime in Vietnam where life was difficult for his family. He vividly recalls seeing video footage of a man walking on the moon in the home of a family member who had the only black-and-white TV in the village. "I was so excited," Thai says, "I said, 'one day I'll work for that company.'"

After migrating to Wichita, Thai was selected for the Upward Bound Wichita Prep program. The experience and motivation he received from UB inspired his future educational and career accomplishments. Thai holds an electrical engineering degree from Wichita State and a master's degree in computer systems from Cleveland State University. He landed his dream job at NASA after graduating from Wichita State in 1990. Soon, he will celebrate 25 years working as a NASA researcher.

In 2005, Thai was NASA's on-loan executive to the United Way where he has helped raise funds for area charities. "I was proud," Thai says, "to help the really needy in the city." Last March, Thai proudly greeted and cheered on the Shockers men's basketball team in the NCAA basketball tournament in Dayton, OH.





Staff Photo, Office of Special Programs 2017



86% of CARS Conference attendees were motivated to partner or continue to partner with Special Programs at WSU.



Special guests were recognized during the banquet. Pictured above is Royce Bowden, PhD, Dean of the College of Engineering.



OSP directors and recognized alumni

Students, staff and alumni posed for pictures in the "Media Room" during the TRIO Day Celebration.





**TRIO Programs are funded 100% and GEAR UP is funded 50% by the U.S. Department of Education and hosted by Wichita State University under the Division of Student Affairs.**

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