

Honoring Our Own:



Rick Armstrong, PhD

Communication
Upward Bound

My most satisfying experience as director of Communication Upward Bound is watching student participants with very little self-confidence catch fire and realize that continuing their education beyond high school can help insure their futures.



Shukura Bakari-Cozart

Veterans Upward Bound

The TRIO/GEAR UP programs provide academic support for individuals who do not have those supports in their lives. This becomes crucial in terms of entering, staying and graduating from postsecondary education institutions to become productive members of the workforce.

As TRIO alumna, I understand the many struggles students face. I also understand the business of TRIO/GEAR UP as a director. As I make programmatic decisions, I take into account those students' struggles.



Frances Ervin

Educational Opportunity
Centers Program

TRIO/GEAR UP programs expand access to education, jobs and careers to build lifelong financial security for adults, youth and their families.

My most satisfying experience as a director has been collaborating with other programs in Wichita/Sedgwick County that serve the same population as EOC Program.



Rhonda Hicks

Upward Bound Wichita
Prep and Upward Bound
Empowerment

The TRIO/GEAR UP programs serve as a platform for transformational work that affects the students, their families and future generations. We transform students from what they are into who they desire to be, *college graduates*. This is the main reason I work in the TRIO/GEAR UP programs.



LaWanda Holt-Fields

McNair Scholars Program

The greatest benefit to students who participate in TRIO programs is the emotional support that they receive from staff and other participants. This reinforces that they are not alone and that there is someone cheering for their success.

I LOVE my job. Watching and assisting students as they grow and develop into the people that they were meant to be is fulfilling and rewarding.

TRIO/GEAR UP Program Directors



Kennedy Musamali, EDD
Student Support Services

The most satisfying experience being a director is seeing the growth of students and the commitment of my staff to help them succeed.

Students I worked with from my days with Upward Bound are lawyers, doctors, teachers, and entrepreneurs. It is an incredible feeling knowing how far they came and how much they overcame. They inspire me daily and remind me that the work I do is important.



Corinne Nilsen
Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP

My most satisfying experience as a director has been increasing the number of students in foster care that graduated from high school and went to college.

Empowering students to advocate for themselves and their education is the greatest benefit TRIO/GEAR UP provides.



Larry Ramos
Talent Search

It's imperative that the programs continue because there is a real need to assist low-income and first-generation students. The future of the country depends on having an educated workforce.

I enjoy the comradery I share with my fellow TRIO/GEAR UP directors. I don't know if any of us aspired to direct a program, but we all share that same desire to open doors for low income and underrepresented students.



Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd

Disability Support Services

TRIO/GEAR UP programs provide crucial resources, opportunities for personal and professional growth and a sense of community.

My most satisfying experience as a director is to see my students walk across the stage. It is the most priceless experience to see the end of their academic journey. It is a long haul, but it is all worth it in the end.



Derrick Veasey
Upward Bound
Math Science

I enjoy working in the TRIO program because you get to see students' lives change and watch them grow as strong confident young adults. Planting the seeds at the beginning of a student's life is the best thing to see them blossom before your eyes.