

Honoring Our Own:

Hercilia “Chila” Thompson began her career as administrative assistant at WSU in 1983 for the Student Support Services (formerly Special Services for Disadvantaged Students-- Operation Success). During the course of her career, she has made significant contributions to TRIO/GEAR UP and the Wichita State campus community.

In 1998, Thompson received a promotion to administrative assistant to Upward Bound/ Office of Special Programs. She has served in her current role as administrative associate for the Office of Special Programs under Associate Vice President Deltha Q. Colvin since 2010. According to Colvin, Thompson’s time and efforts have been instrumental in making the TRIO and GEAR UP programs successful.

At WSU, Thompson has been involved in a number of activities and organizations including the University Support Staff Senate where she is an at-large senator representing TRIO issues and concerns. She received the WSU President’s Distinguished Service Award, Bender of Twigs, and the Phenomenal Woman Award in recognition of her efforts at the university. Thompson is also an active member of the Educational Opportunity Association.

Thompson has an office occupations certificate from Emporia Vocational Technical School and a Bachelor of Arts in business administration degree from Wichita State University.

“Chila knows the programs about as well as any of the directors. She knows the inner workings of the multiple programs and makes it a point to know the current students and alumni.”

- Deltha Q. Colvin, associate vice president for special programs



Hercilia “Chila” Thompson



“Hercilia Thompson is a kind and generous person. She always has a smile and is willing to help in any way. The Office of Special Programs has benefited from her longevity and knowledge.”

- Corinne Nilsen, executive director for KKGU



Larry Ramos, director of TRIO Talent Search, has known Thompson since 1985 and marvels at the way she can recount the history of the programs. “She remembers minute details such as names and faces. Looking at old polaroid photos, she can tell you who the people are and what program they were with,” says Ramos. “She is a university treasure.”

“When I think of Chila, her skillset is invaluable for any administrator. She is very organized, has outstanding knowledge of office procedures and continually keeps current on effective office practices. She’s efficient with her time and is superbly familiar with job requirements. She performs her job over and above what’s expected. She understands her supervisors roles in relation to WSU and she is well aware of the political ramifications.”

- Deema de Silva, PhD, former director for SSS