

# Educational Opportunity Centers Program

*Outstanding  
Alum*



**Darryl Carrington**

*Rising  
Star*



**Sharee Mitchell**

**Darryl Carrington** was a returning adult student when he applied to the Educational Opportunity Centers Program (EOC). With a fulltime job and a family, Darryl was determined to achieve his educational goals and to have a career in public administration. As a student, Darryl served on the WSU Senate and president of the Fairmount Neighborhood Association. He received recognition for his community work from numerous local news agencies.

Darryl attended WSU where he majored in general studies with an emphasis in ethnic studies. He also worked for WSU as the community liaison for the Shocker Neighborhood Coalition. Darryl worked alongside Fairmount community members to develop an identity for the neighborhood. He surveyed the Fairmount residents helping them to define their concerns for the community. The result was a more energized collaboration between the university and the neighborhood. In 2017, he testified before the United States Senate on the value of TRIO and Educational Opportunity Centers.

Darryl continues his zest for public policy in his role as the volunteer coordinator for Story Time Village Incorporated; a collaborative effort with parents, schools, community members and organizations that help Kansas students rise to a higher knowledge level.

**Sharee Mitchell** was referred by a partnering community organization to the Educational Opportunity Centers Program for assistance to transfer to a four-year university.

During the EOC intake process, staff administered a Grit Scale Assessment as well as a Challenges to Education Assessment as a means for self-reflection and to enrich counseling services. During the program orientation, Sharee was given assistance to create an Educational Action Plan that would put her on the path to graduation. Program staff assisted Sharee with applying for admission to Wichita State and assisted her in submitting the FAFSA application which allowed for her to receive a Pell Grant to pay for classes and tuition.

Sharee is a recipient of an Office of Special Programs Admission Fee Grant scholarship that helped with the cost associated with the college application. She is currently enrolled at Wichita State with the goal of earning a bachelor's degree in health care administration.