

Issue 2, January 2019



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

# Special Programs

M A G A Z I N E

## *Honoring Our Own* 2019

A BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS



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Associate Vice President  
for Special Programs

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Introduction

Honoring Our Own

# Introduction

Deltha Q. Colvin



Building Bridges honorees, professionals in their fields who completed participation in a TRIO/GEAR UP program and earned a degree, will be recognized. This is the highest honor that is given by the programs. Congratulate the honorees and let them know how proud they should be of their efforts. An advocate who has worked to support and ensure the success of the programs is to be recognized. This year, the programs are honoring a special family for their support and commitment to the TRIO concept. Five members of the Souriya family participated in TRIO. The staff are proud of their professional accomplishments and continued recognition of the programs.

During the day, the College Access Retention and Success (CARS) conference will be held to share information about the programs and their activities. Each program will host a table.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended and the Higher Educational Opportunity Act of 2008 is the authorizing legislation for the TRIO Programs. The programs acknowledge the continued support and commitment of individuals from the community, USD 259 and Wichita State University. Program participants have accomplished much and continue to make their mark on the city, state, region, and nation.

Finally, congratulations to the directors and their staffs for a quality TRIO/GEAR UP magazine and program. Please enjoy this issue of TRIO/GEAR UP Day Magazine.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deltha Q. Colvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Deltha Q. Colvin  
Associate Vice President for Special Programs

The programs are ready for TRIO/GEAR UP Day 2019 on February 21, 2019. "TRIO: The Blueprint for a Lifetime of Success", continues as the long-standing theme for the magazine. We are also continuing to recognize former students from each program. On the campus of Wichita State University (WSU), the TRIO Programs and Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) are administered through the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement under the Office of Special Programs. The Office of Special Programs includes TRIO: Upward Bound Wichita Prep (UBWP), Upward Bound Empowerment (UBE), Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS), Communication Upward Bound (CUB), Veterans Upward Bound (VUB), Student Support Services (SSS), Disability Support Services (DSS), Talent Search (TS), McNair Scholars (MS), and the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) Programs; GEAR UP: Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP (KKGU), Haysville GEAR UP (HGU), and the Policy Analyst Director (PAD).

Thousands of postsecondary, secondary and middle school students receive services, are able to expand their knowledge base, and learn from quality personnel through TRIO/GEAR UP each year. Programs are a natural complement to each other and provide comprehensive services to address the needs of eligible participants.

On TRIO Day, students will be recognized for their academic performance and enrichment activities. Also,

# Communication Upward Bound

*Outstanding  
Alum*



**Kristen Stinnett**

*Rising  
Star*



**Marissa Mullen**

**Kristen Stinnett** is a Wichita native and graduated from Wichita West High School in 2014. Kristen was active in Communication Upward Bound (CUB) for two years. “Communication Upward Bound helped me to develop and sharpen my communication skills. I knew those skills would help me with future opportunities in college and beyond.”

Kristen obtained her bachelor’s degree in legal studies and she immediately enrolled in Washburn Law School where she is pursuing a juris doctorate. After graduation, she looks forward to establishing her practice in criminal or family law, with sights to advance as a prosecutor and then as a district attorney. Kristen is actively involved in the local chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the Black Law Student Association.

**Marissa Mullen** is a junior at Wichita South High School. She began her journey with Communication Upward Bound at Wichita State as a rising freshman. For the past three years, it’s been an honor for the Communication Upward Bound staff to witness the blossoming of Marissa as she successfully manages her academic schedule each semester, discovers her authentic voice, and uses her influence to make a difference.

Marissa’s long-term career goals include pediatric medicine. For now, she loves to sing and is involved in choir and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID). She is current president of South High School Crime Stoppers. Most recently, she was featured as one of speakers for Speak Up!, a national program designed to build a culture of communication and support recently established at South High. With Marissa’s passion and zeal, the Communication Upward Bound staff are confident the best is yet to come for her!

# Disability Support Services



**Jenna Smith** joined TRIO Disability Support Services (DSS) in 2004 and remained in the program through graduation. She graduated from Wichita State in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in health services management and community development.

After graduating with her bachelor's degree, Jenna went on to obtain two master's degrees. She earned degrees in public health from The University of Kansas in 2012 and aging studies from Wichita State in 2014. Jenna plans to return to school in the near future to work on a doctorate.

Jenna has put her education to good work as an advocate for adults with Alzheimer's and dementia. She worked for five years as the family care coordinator for the local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association and now as a helpline care consultant for the Alzheimer's Association headquarters providing support for caregivers and family members.

She is active in the Wichita community as a member of the Public Health Coalition and various other groups that advocate for the needs of elderly adults. Jenna continues to volunteer with the Alzheimer's Association local chapter in coordinating events and planning and presenting for the yearly Kansas Education Conference on Dementia.



**Andrea Reed** was a returning adult student when she joined TRIO Disability Support Services. Andrea came to Wichita State in 2010 and will be graduating in 2018 with a degree in general ethnic studies and a Tilford Diversity Studies Certificate.

Education was not always at the top of Andrea's mind. After raising two children and battling breast cancer, she felt she was too old to go on to college. A friend encouraged Andrea to join the Educational Opportunities Centers program at Wichita State. When Andrea moved on to the main campus, she found career exploration, graduate school options, and study skills workshops from DSS. She also took advantage of the DSS writing specialist to help her with her papers.

She will begin graduate school in 2019 in the liberal studies program. Eventually, Andrea would like to operate a living community where she can help elderly women live out their lives as they would like.

# 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.

# Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP



**Jessica Wingfield**

**Jessica Wingfield** attended Hutchinson High School. Her parents were unable to provide a stable home. When she was just two years old, her grandparents took temporary custody of the children. During her junior year, her grandfather took her to a seminar at Kansas State University. It wasn't until then that Jessica had seriously thought about going to college. The next year she applied and was accepted at K-State.

Jessica remembers being excited but also worried about the costs. One day she noticed flyers around her high school for Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP (KKGU) and decided to apply for their scholarship. Because of KKGU, not only did she get to attend college, but was also able to accept a position in the School of Nursing at The University of Kansas (KU). She received a Bachelor's of Science in nursing from KU in 2014 and is now an intensive care RN at Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City.



**Brianna**

**Brianna** has been a student in Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP for four years. She participated in community service, campus visits, cultural events, ACT boot camp and student leadership conferences. She is a senior at Nickerson High School. She has overcome mental and states that even though money is a struggle, she is thankful and appreciative that her grandmother took her in.

Brianna participated in softball and has a GPA of 3.71. She is a certified nursing assistant and would like to go to college to be an EMT and paramedic. Brianna is looking to start at Hutchinson Community College then transfer to Kansas State University.

She would love to do a mission trip to Africa. Brianna enjoys watching and spending time with little kids, reading, listening to music, playing and watching basketball and soccer and being with friends.

# McNair Scholars Program

*Outstanding  
Alum*



**Rebecca Rodriguez Carey, PhD**

*Rising  
Star*



**Alondra Del Real**

**Rebecca Rodriguez Carey, PhD** is assistant professor of sociology and crime and delinquency studies at Emporia State University. Her teaching and research interests include women and crime, women's incarceration, gender, families, and qualitative methods. Her current research study relies on in-depth interviews she conducted with women who were pregnant in prison in order to better understand how the pregnancy experience unfolds behind bars.

Rebecca received a doctorate in sociology with a minor in college teaching from the University of Missouri in 2018. While at the University of Missouri, she was a Ronald E. McNair Fellowship recipient. She also received a Master of Arts degree in sociology from the University of Missouri in 2014. Rebecca earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology with a minor in criminal justice from Wichita State in 2012, where she was a McNair Scholar. She lives in Emporia, KS with her husband and daughter.

**Alondra Del Real** is double majoring in communication sciences and disorders and psychology at Wichita State. She is completing her second year in the McNair Scholars Program and will graduate in May 2019.

Alondra takes advantage of the opportunities McNair offers including the research component. She is completing a second research project under Karissa Marble-Flint, Ph.D., assistant professor for the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorder. Alondra maintains excellent grades while managing a rigorous course schedule required to complete a dual degree.

A participant of McNair and Student Support Services, Alondra credits both programs for assisting in her college success. She plans to enter graduate school in the fall and ultimately become a speech language pathologist. Alondra became interested in speech pathology while working as a paraeducator in Dodge City. She loves helping kids grow and hopes to make a difference in their lives and how they communicate.

# 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

# Student Support Services



**Jennifer Nguyen**



**Lillian Tran**

**Jennifer Nguyen** is an alumnus of TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) at Wichita State. Originally from Vietnam, Jennifer graduated high school in 1978 but didn't enroll at WSU until 1996. Once there, she majored in industrial engineering and found the Student Support Services program. She was working fulltime and raising three children when she decided to drop out. She shared her ideas with her SSS advisor who reassured her that everything would work out if she "stuck it out." Jennifer received great advising and tutorial support in math and chemistry and finished her bachelor's degree.

She credits Vanessa Souriya-Mnirajd and retired professor Don Malzahn, PhD for encouraging her to graduate. Currently, she is a tool design engineer at Textron Aviation in Wichita. "SSS guided me to the right career. I was strong in the major, pursued it, and completed it," Jennifer exclaims.

**Lillian Tran** is a senior at Wichita State majoring in biological sciences. She enrolled in TRIO Student Support Services during the spring 2016 semester in need of additional support with her academics. Since then, she has grown to be an extremely confident, hardworking, and dedicated student. She has been on the Dean's Honor Roll for the since fall 2015.

Through SSS, Lillian has benefited from tutoring and a host of other services. She is actively involved in several organizations at WSU including Sigma Psi Zeta Sorority, Future Health Care Professionals, and the Vietnamese Student Association. She also volunteers for Heartland Hospice, Convoy of Hope, Race for the Cure, and Habitat for Humanity.

Lillian takes pride in giving back to the program by tutoring SSS peers in need of additional support as she once was. She recently completed Level I Tutor Certification through the International College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). Lillian plans to attend graduate school in the medical field.

# Talent Search

Outstanding  
Alum



**Mallela Sabas**

Rising  
Star



**Priscilla Castaneda**

Former TRIO Talent Search participant **Mallela Sabas** won the prestigious 2018 Distinguished Classroom Teacher Award for USD 259. Mallela's award was in the secondary education category. In a feature article in the June edition of *El Perico* magazine, she recalled entering elementary school knowing only how to say "ice cream" and "teacher" in English. Interestingly, that last word she knew how to say would be the one that defines who she is as a professional.

As a potential first generation college student, Mallela attended North High School where she participated in the WSU's TRIO Talent Search program. After graduating high school, she went to Butler Community College before transferring to Wichita State where she graduated with honors with a dual degree in modern and classical languages and education, specializing in pre-kindergarten to 12th grade Spanish.

Currently, she teaches Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Excel, language arts, and interventional classes at Jardine Technology Magnet Middle School. Her passion for teaching is undeniable as her recent award indicates.

**Priscilla Castaneda** has been a participant in TRIO Talent Search since sixth grade. She currently is a freshman at Wichita North High School. She learned early on that she could receive advice and guidance from the program counselors on preparing for college. All of her older siblings are TRIO alums. Priscilla takes great pride in her school work. She strives to achieve A's in all of her classes.

Her hard work in middle school paid huge dividends. This year, she was named a recipient of the Give Something Back Scholarship—a full-ride scholarship after high school graduation. When it was announced that she was to receive the award, she thought about her hardworking mother and how the scholarship would take a huge weight off her shoulders. She also thought about the staff of Talent Search who believed in her. Priscilla and her family are grateful to the program for the many doors that have opened to them.

# Upward Bound Empowerment



**Jasmine Garcia**

**Jasmine Garcia** is a junior at East High School and a participant in the new TRIO Upward Bound Empowerment Program at WSU. She joined Upward Bound Empowerment because she wants to be successful in college. Jasmine hopes to acquire effective study skills and test preparation to excel in high school and the tools and experience she needs for college.

Jasmine has a passion for photography and likes to be creative. She aspires to own a photography business one day and to have this business grow in California. Her main goal right now is actively pursuing each and every day as a member of Upward Bound Empowerment. Jasmine wants to graduate high school and go to college for herself but also for others. Once she graduates college, she wants to be able to give back to her family and help them as much as they have helped her. Jasmine is a hard-working student which shows each time she comes to weekly tutoring. She is determined to be the best student she can be.

Jasmine is the middle child of five siblings. Family is a very important aspect in her life. She sees her brother as the biggest influence on her life. He went to college, was successful and found a good job after graduation. Jasmine wants to have the same experience and success.

After being involved with Upward Bound Empowerment for several months, Jasmine has grown by making new connections and being able to step outside her comfort zone. She is able to be herself more often than she used to be. When it comes to classes and grades, Jasmine has taken full advantage of the services offered. This has helped her a lot since she started the program. Jasmine has also noticed herself becoming more engaged in everything that Upward Bound Empowerment has to offer.

# Upward Bound Math Science



*Outstanding  
Alum*

**Thuy Nguyen**



*Rising  
Star*

**Bo Tolbert**

**Thuy Nguyen** is an alumni of Wichita State TRIO Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) and Garden City TRIO Talent Search. Thuy joined UBMS as a freshman in 2000 and joined Talent Search in 2002. She served as a tutor for both programs.

Thuy graduated from Wichita State in 2008 with her bachelor of science degree in nursing. She worked as a critical care nurse for seven years while she advanced her education and graduated with a master's degree in nursing in 2015. She has been a family practitioner for the past three years focusing on wellness promotion, health maintenance, illness prevention and treatment in a Wichita.

She enjoys spending time with her family and traveling the world. "Thank you TRIO for your work bridging students to higher education and allowing me to pay forward in the community as a result of my success," Thuy says.

**Bo Tolbert** has been an active participant in TRIO Upward Bound Math Science and is a senior at Hutchison High school. Participating on the boys' tennis team has taught him determination, persistence and the power of positive thinking. This attitude does not stop on the court but continues in the classroom and in life.

The youngest child of divorced parents, Bo has always pushed beyond his limits. As a positive person, he believes that every person is inherently kind. The only thing that separates people are the choices made in life. Tolbert goes by the mantra "if you want to be happy, it is a choice, not a right."

Bo plans to pursue a double major in aerospace engineering and business management. Eventually, he wants to be President of the United States. He says, "I just wants to make the world a better place."

# Upward Bound Wichita Prep



**Mark Nola**

**Mark Nola**, alumni of Upward Bound Wichita Prep (UBWP) graduated from The University of Kansas in 2004 with a degree in chemistry. He said his experiences with Upward Bound motivated him to pursue the education field. He recalls that because of Upward Bound he was awarded a full ride scholarship to KU for which he remains forever grateful.

After working for General Mills as a chemist, he returned to Kansas to teach science at Wichita East High School and Cowley College. During this time, he also taught in Korea and was a tutor for Upward Bound. He received a master's degree in teaching from Wichita State in 2010.

Mark finished pharmacy school at the University of Minnesota in 2016 and is currently a pharmacist at Robert J. Dole Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Wichita. He says his experiences here and abroad made him realize that it's never too late to pursue goals and passions.



**Annai Loza**

**Annai Loza** joined Upward Bound Wichita Prep as a rising 8th grader. She states "Before I joined UBWP, I had no knowledge of the importance or the purpose of education. My perspective changed dramatically after my first year in the program. I learned how to study, focus, and to believe in myself. Without UBWP, I would not have found my desire to succeed."

Her GPA has risen and she's learned to balance a busy schedule, participates in multiple sports at Wichita West High School, and attends UBWP activities. Upon graduating high school, she will have earned a certification in phlebotomy and electrocardiography.

Annai has already been accepted to WSU. She states, "I plan to graduate with a bachelor's degree in bio-chemistry with a minor in Spanish. I will then apply for medical school at The University of Kansas to achieve my ultimate goal of becoming a pediatric oncologist."

# Veterans Upward Bound



**Brandon Blodgett**



**Michael Collins**

**Captain Brandon C. Blodgett** has served his country through the United States Air Force for over 16 years. He is currently serving as a reserve aircraft commander on the KC-135R McConnell Air Force Base. Brandon has served in multiple functions for both active duty and reserve components. During his enlisted years as a combat civil engineer, he served in both Iraq and Afghanistan supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

As a pilot, Brandon has been deployed three times to the Middle East and once to the Pacific Theater executing combat missions over Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan. As a civilian, Brandon works as a first officer for Envoy Air.

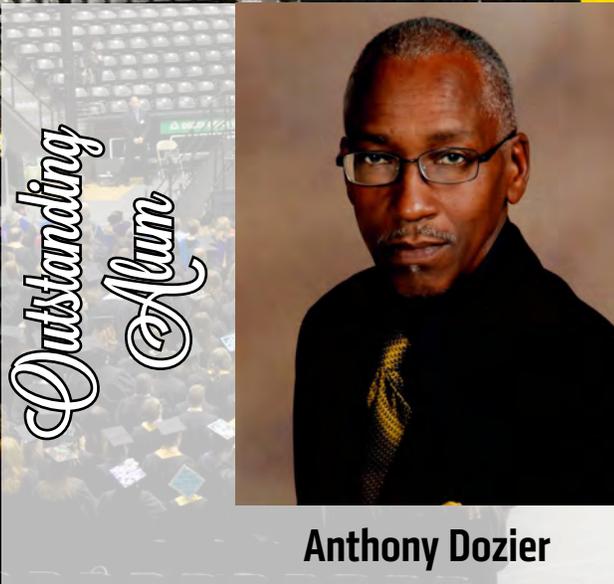
From mentors in his church and military communities to programs such as Veterans Upward Bound (VUB), getting the right advice at the right time from the right people was critical to every step and he is humbled and thankful for every door that has been opened.

**Michael Collins** was enlisted in the United States Marine Corps from 1973 to 1976. His Military Occupation Specialty was 0351 anti-tank assault/demolition. He has been to many interesting places around the world, including Finland and Norway. He entered the Marines during a time when service members could enter without earning a high school diploma.

After separating from the military, Michael went to work in the aircraft industry. Unfortunately, he was laid off. However, that experience made him realize that he needed to further his education in order to be employable. As a result, he sought out the Veterans Upward Bound program for help.

In 2014, Michael became a VUB participant. He entered the program because he wanted the opportunity to hone his academic skills, work on a GED, and eventually earn a college degree. "VUB has helped me to build more confidence in myself" Michael recently remarked.

# Office of Special Programs



**Anthony Dozier**

**Anthony Dozier** is an alumnus of Upward Bound. He participated from 1971 through 1974. Upward Bound was vital to him because according to Dozier, “I had a fractured family life.” The program was a place of refuge for him because it provided stability.

Anthony indicated that his plans for higher education “did not go in the right direction.” However, the thought of getting a college degree was always on his mind. Years later, he graduated from Kansas Newman University with a degree in business administration.

Anthony thanks Deltha Q. Colvin for her personal interest in him. He says, “She had the ability to make students feel that they had a purpose to fulfill.” He is grateful and feels it was a privilege to be a part of TRIO.

Anthony worked as a coordinator for Aerospace Logistics. Also, his art was on exhibition at WSU in 2014-2016 and he was recognized as New Best Artist in America in 2016.

# Wichita State Special Programs CARS Conference



Wichita State University Special Programs is excited to announce the FREE College Access, Retention and Success (CARS Conference) for educators, university faculty, university and school administrators and community workers at all levels.

Built on the success of 2018, the 2019 CARS Conference will be held on Thursday, February 21, 10.00 am to 12.30 pm at the Rhatigan Student Center, 2nd Floor, Wichita State University.

This year, the conference will present participants with TRIO talks ranging from “Summer Enrichment,” to “Successfully instill STEAM in First Generation Students.”

**Date:** Thursday, February 21, 2019

**Location:** Rhatigan Student Center, 2nd Floor

**Time:** 10.00 am to 12.30 pm

Registration is free and can be completed at the following link: [www.wichita.edu/CARS](http://www.wichita.edu/CARS)

To learn more about  
Wichita State University  
Special Programs and  
TRIO Day 2019 go to:  
[wichita.edu/osp](http://wichita.edu/osp)





**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 Diversity and Community Engagement.**

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