

# KANSAS

*29th Annual Kansas Legislative Breakfast*



**54 TRIO Programs - 14,093 Students - \$17,234,852**  
**8 GEAR UP Programs - 10,678 Students - \$10,042,400**

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## WHAT ARE TRIO & GEARUP?

TRIO and GEAR UP support educational opportunity for individuals who are low income, the first in their families to be earning a bachelor's degree, veterans, and those with disabilities.

Our nation has declared a commitment to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstance, and these programs serve that vision.

In support of this commitment, Congress established a series of programs to help low-income Americans prepare for and enter college, graduate, and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life. These programs are funded under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and are referred to as the TRIO and GEAR UP programs. While student financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRIO and GEAR UP help students overcome class, social, and cultural barriers to higher education.

Currently, more than 3,400 TRIO programs serve over 880,000 students and 160 GEAR UP Programs serve over 523,000 students. Participants enrolled in today's programs closely mirror our nation's multicultural and multiethnic society and include veterans and those with disabilities.

### Current TRIO Income Levels

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Outlying Jurisdictions	Alaska	Hawaii
1	\$21,870	\$27,315	\$25,155
2	\$29,580	\$36,960	\$34,020
3	\$37,290	\$46,605	\$42,885
4	\$45,000	\$56,250	\$51,750
5	\$52,710	\$68,895	\$60,615
6	\$60,420	\$75,540	\$69,480
7	\$68,130	\$85,185	\$78,345
8	\$75,840	\$94,830	\$87,210

For family units with more than eight members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$7,710 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; \$9,645 for Alaska; and \$8,865 for Hawaii.

## TYPES OF PROGRAMS

The name TRIO initially came into use after the first three programs were authorized under the Higher Education Act. Now eight distinct TRIO programs play a unique role in providing educational opportunity. GEAR UP programs are closely related discretionary grant programs supporting students at high-poverty middle and high schools.

### **Educational Opportunity Centers**

The goal of the Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC) is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education institutions. The program also provides services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants. An important objective of the program is to counsel participants on financial aid options, including basic financial planning skills, and to assist in the college application process.

An analysis of EOC participants found that 59% of college-ready students were admitted to institutions of higher learning.<sup>1</sup>

### **Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program**

The Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program honors the legacy of Dr. Ronald McNair who died tragically in the Challenger Space Shuttle disaster. These programs, known as McNair Scholars programs for short, aim to promote equity in graduate school enrollment by helping high achieving low-income, first-generation or underrepresented minority undergraduates prepare for successful completion of doctoral degrees. McNair Scholars, who graduated in 2012-13, 84.3% were enrolled in graduate school in 2013-14.<sup>2</sup>

### **Student Support Services**

The goal of Student Support Services (SSS) projects is to increase the college retention and graduation rates of its participants. SSS assists students with college requirements and provides opportunities for academic development. SSS may also provide grant aid to current participants in need of additional financial support to persist in school.

SSS participants were more likely to remain enrolled in higher education and complete a bachelor's degree as compared with eligible non-participants. SSS participants have a higher grade point average than similar students who did not receive such services.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Educational Opportunity Centers, Fast Facts Report for the Educational Opportunity Centers Program: 2018-19

<sup>2</sup> Grantee-Level Performance Results: 2013-14 from <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/triomcnair/performance.html>

<sup>3</sup> National Evaluation of Student Support Services: Examination of Student Outcomes After Six Years.

## TYPES OF PROGRAMS

### **Talent Search**

The goal of Talent Search (TS) is to increase the number of youth, 6th-12th grade, from disadvantaged backgrounds to complete high school and enroll in the postsecondary education institution of their choice. Talent Search also serves high school dropouts, to age 27, by encouraging them to re-enter the educational system and complete their education.

According to the most recent data collected by the Department of Education, 80% of TS participants were admitted to postsecondary institutions.<sup>4</sup>

### **Upward Bound**

The goal of Upward Bound (UB) is to increase the rates at which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education. Classic UB serves high school students from low-income families and high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree.

In 2018, 85% of all students who participated in UB programs immediately enrolled in college in the fall following high school graduation.<sup>5</sup>

### **Upward Bound Math Science**

The goal of the Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) programs is to help students recognize and develop their potential to excel in high school math and science and to encourage them to pursue postsecondary degrees in math and science, and ultimately careers in the math and science profession.

In recent years, 89% of students who participated in UBMS programs went directly to college after graduating from high school.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, Student Service, Fast Facts Report for the Student Support Services Program, Washington, D.C., 2016.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Education, Federal TRIO Programs, Fast Facts Report for the Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math Science Program: 2017-18

## TYPES OF PROGRAMS

### Veterans Upward Bound

The goal of Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is to increase the rates at which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education. Veterans UB serves low-income, first-generation military veterans who are preparing to enter postsecondary education.

According to the National Association of Veterans Upward Bound Program Personnel, in 2015-2016, more than 74% of recent program participants were enrolled in postsecondary education programs.<sup>7</sup>

### Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

GEAR UP Programs are designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Grants are provided to states and partnerships to provide services to high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than seventh grade, following them through their first year of college. Funds also provide college scholarships to low-income students.

“GEAR UP middle school staff, participating in the study focus groups, reported that GEAR UP middle schools were more likely than non-GEAR UP middle schools to offer honors and above-grade-level classes. They perceived that some of these changes took place with the implementation of the GEAR UP projects in 1999.”<sup>8</sup>



<sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education, Student Service, Fast Facts Report for the Veterans Upward Bound Program, Washington, D.C., 2020.

<sup>8</sup> United States Department of Education (2008, August 11). Early outcomes of the GEAR UP program. Retrieved March 17, 2021, from <https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/highered/gearup/index.html>

## PROGRAMS OF KANSAS

### Statewide TRIO Programs

The state of Kansas proudly hosts 54 TRIO programs that serve 14,093 first-generation, low income students, clients, and veterans. There are also 200+ professionals that work for the TRIO programs in Kansas. In order to more effectively serve our students, TRIO programs have developed nearly 300 non-TRIO-related educational collaborations. In total, Kansas TRIO programs have secured \$17,234,852 in federal funding.

PROGRAM TYPE	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED	FY 22 FUNDING
Educational Opportunity Center	4	4,000	\$1,171,766
McNair Scholars Program	4	112	\$1,171,587
Student Support Services	22	3,944	\$6,686,334
Talent Search	7	4,810	\$2,637,057
Upward Bound	12	777	\$3,924,962
Upward Bound Math Science	3	200	\$993,629
Veterans Upward Bound	2	250	\$595,202
	<b>54</b>	<b>14,093</b>	<b>\$17,234,852</b>

### Statewide GEAR UP Programs

Kansas is fortunate to have both a statewide GEAR UP grant and 7 partnership grants. The state grant serves 2,500 youth in foster care across all 105 counties in Kansas through 16 regional offices. All 4 congressional districts of Kansas are served through this state grant. Additional grants support our largest metropolitan areas: Wichita, Topeka, and Kansas City. Funded in 2018, Haysville GEAR UP is the newest grant.

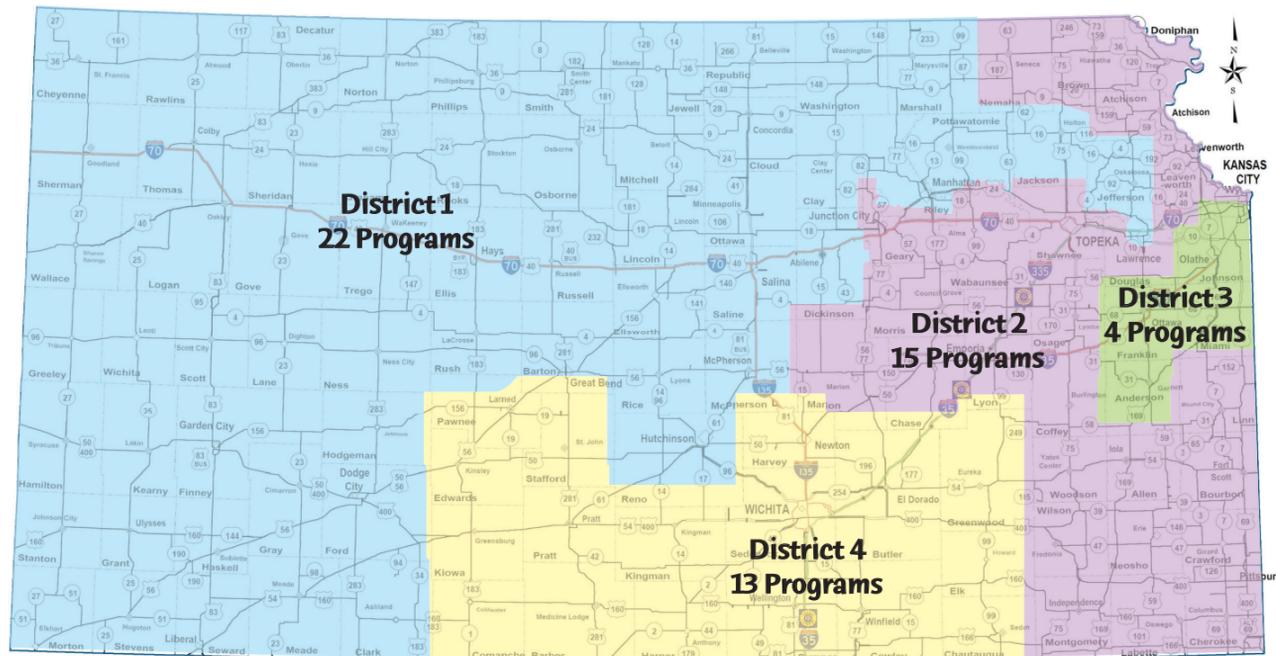
PROGRAM	LOCATION	NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED	FY 22 FUNDING
Kansas Kids GEAR UP	Statewide	2,500	\$3,500,000
GEAR UP Diploma	Kansas City	3,328	\$2,662,400
GEAR UP Topeka	Topeka	400	\$320,000
North Wichita GEAR UP	Wichita	925	\$740,000
South Wichita GEAR UP	Wichita	925	\$740,000
Southeast Wichita GEAR UP	Wichita	925	\$740,000
West Wichita GEAR UP	Wichita	925	\$740,000
Haysville GEAR UP	Haysville	750	\$600,000
		<b>10,678</b>	<b>\$10,042,400</b>

# TRIO STATEWIDE DISTRIBUTION

## TRIO Programs by District

There are 21 TRIO host institutions of higher education in Kansas, many of which host multiple grant awards to serve their student, client and veteran populations.

There are more than 120 different TRIO partner organizations and target middle and high schools throughout the state of Kansas. Some of these organizations collaborate with multiple programs. Our partnerships assist us in leveraging grant funds and extending the reach of services.

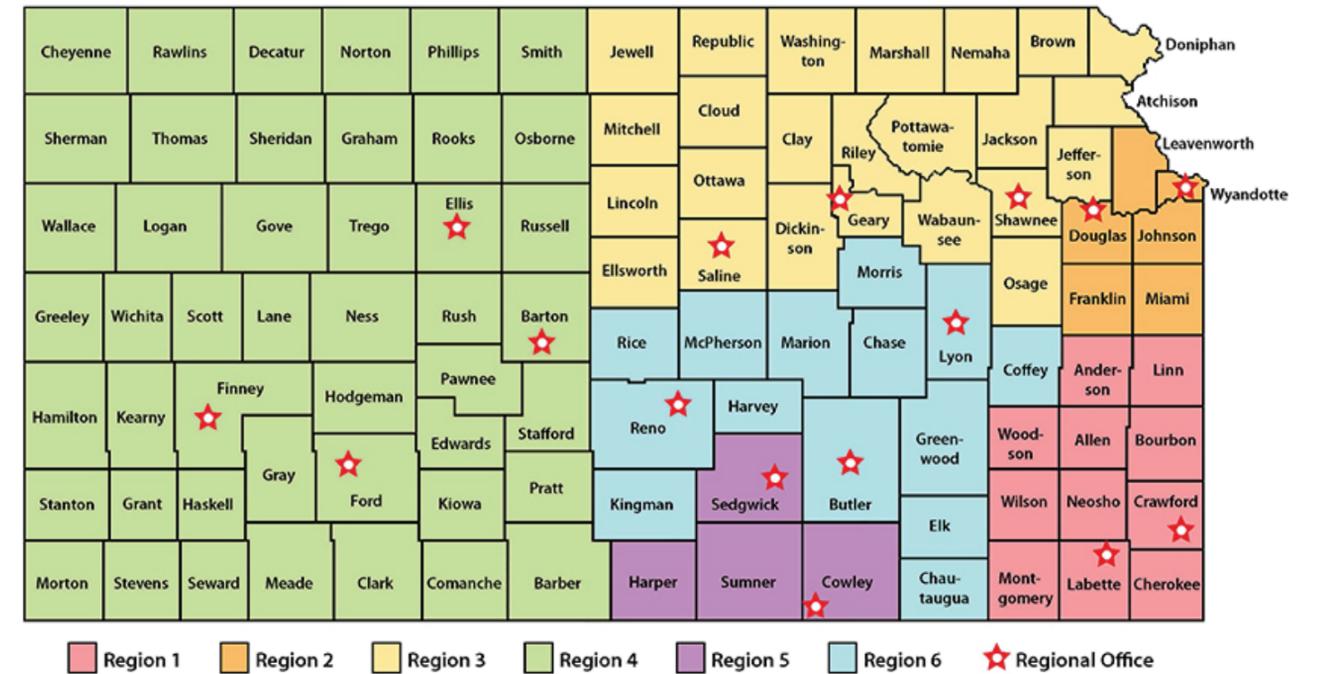


# GEAR UP STATEWIDE DISTRIBUTION

## State Grant - Kansas Kids GEAR UP

Our state GEAR UP grant, Kansas Kids GEAR UP, serves every district of KS and all 105 counties. This grant was funded \$3,500,000 in 2015 to provide services to 2,500 foster care youth across the state and continues to be funded the same amount each year.

The state grant is broken into 6 regions of service. Each district is a host to regional offices that support area students.



## Partnership Grants

Kansas institutions, the University of Kansas Center for Research and Wichita State University, each host multiple partner grants (7 total), which serve low income students in Haysville, Kansas City, Topeka, and Wichita. Partner grants bring \$6,542,400 to Kansas.

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED	FY22 FUNDING
1st Congressional District	22	5,019	\$6,782,882
2nd Congressional District	16	3,248	\$4,756,382
3rd Congressional District	3	2,057	\$1,087,381
4th Congressional Distreict	13	3,769	\$4,608,207
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>14,093</b>	<b>\$17,234,852</b>

DISTRICT	KANSAS PARTNER GRANTS			KANSAS KIDS GEAR UP		
1st Congressional	--			8 Regional Offices	2,500 students in foster care	\$3,500,000 FY22
2nd Congressional	GEAR UP Topeka	400 students	\$320,000 FY22	4 Regional Offices		
3rd Congressional	GEAR UP Diploma (Kansas City)	3,328 students	\$2,662,400 FY22	1 Regional Office		
4th Congressional	Wichita GEAR UP (4) & Haysville	4,450 students	\$3,560,000 FY22	3 Regional Offices		

## 1<sup>ST</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - TRIO PROGRAMS

INSTITUTION	PROJECT	STUDENTS SERVED	FY22 FUNDING
Barton County Community College	Educational Opportunity Center	1,000	\$313,131
Barton County Community College	Student Support Services	200	\$367,531
Barton County Community College	Upward Bound	57	\$297,601
Barton County Community College	Upward Bound	59	\$297,601
Cloud County Community College	Student Support Services	160	\$275,105
Colby Community College	Student Support Services	200	\$272,730
Dodge City Community College	Student Support Services	144	\$261,888
Dodge City Community College	Talent Search	500	\$277,375
Garden City Community College	Student Support Services	200	\$327,697
Haskell Indian Nations University	Student Support Services	175	\$294,725
Kansas State University	McNair Scholars Program	28	\$293,317
Kansas State University	Student Support Services	300	\$343,522
Kansas State University/ Salina	Student Support Services	160	\$264,450
Kansas State University/ Salina	Upward Bound	55	\$297,600
Seward County Community College	Student Support Services	160	\$275,105
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.	Educational Opportunity Center	1,000	\$313,131
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.	McNair Scholars Program	31	\$323,066
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.	Student Support Services	120	\$261,888
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.	Student Support Services	250	\$340,088
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.	Upward Bound	94	\$461,678
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.	Upward Bound Math Science	60	\$297,601
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.	Upward Bound Math Science	66	\$326,052
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>22 PROGRAMS</b>	<b>5,019</b>	<b>\$6,782,882</b>



## 2<sup>ND</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - TRIO PROGRAMS

INSTITUTION	PROJECT	STUDENTS SERVED	FY22 FUNDING
Donnelly College	Student Support Services	240	\$315,154
Emporia State University	McNair Scholars Program	25	\$261,888
Emporia State University	Student Support Services	165	\$338,971
Emporia State University	Talent Search	513	\$284,588
Emporia State University	Upward Bound	60	\$297,601
Fort Scott Community College	Student Support Services	150	\$260,839
Highland Community College	Student Support Services	140	\$261,888
Independence Community College	Student Support Services	165	\$252,064
Independence Community College	Upward Bound	65	\$336,030
Kansas City Kansas Community College	Upward Bound	60	\$287,538
Labette Community College	Student Support Services	185	\$308,275
Labette Community College	Talent Search	545	\$271,046
Neosho County Community College	Student Support Services	165	\$332,077
Neosho County Community College	Talent Search	655	\$363,362
Neosho County Community College	Upward Bound	55	\$297,601
Washburn University of Topeka	Upward Bound	60	\$287,460
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>15 PROGRAMS</b>	<b>3,008</b>	<b>\$4,441,228</b>

## 3<sup>RD</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - TRIO PROGRAMS

INSTITUTION	PROJECT	STUDENTS SERVED	FY22 FUNDING
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.	Educational Oppotunity Center	1,000	\$272,753
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.	Talent Search	932	\$517,027
University of Kansas Center for Research, Inc.	Veterans Upward Bound	125	\$297,601
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>4 PROGRAMS</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>\$1,402,535</b>

## 4<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - TRIO PROGRAMS

INSTITUTION	PROJECT	STUDENTS SERVED	FY22 FUNDING
Cowley College	Student Support Services	160	\$335,110
Cowley College	Upward Bound	63	\$312,480
Wichita State University	Educational Opportunity Center	1,000	\$272,751
Wichita State University	McNair Scholars Program	28	\$293,316
Wichita State University	Student Support Services	250	\$494,929
Wichita State University	Student Support Services	115	\$294,725
Wichita State University/ Campus of Applied Science and Tech	Student Support Services	140	\$261,888
Wichita State University	Talent Search	1,165	\$646,284
Wichita State University	Talent Search	500	\$277,375
Wichita State University	Upward Bound	52	\$267,601
Wichita State University	Upward Bound	97	\$484,171
Wichita State University	Upward Bound Math Science	74	\$369,976
Wichita State University	Veterans Upward Bound	125	\$297,601
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>13 PROGRAMS</b>	<b>3,769</b>	<b>\$4,608,207</b>

## 2<sup>ND</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - GEAR UP PROGRAMS

### GEAR UP SITES

OFFICE LOCATION	PROJECT	NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED	FY 22 FUNDING
Pittsburg	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 1	Total state grant serves 2,500 youth in foster care	Total state grant is funded for \$3,500,000
Parsons	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 1		
Topeka	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 3		

## 3<sup>RD</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - GEAR UP PROGRAMS

### GEAR UP SITES

OFFICE LOCATION	PROJECT	NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED	FY 22 FUNDING
Kansas City	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 2	Total state grant serves 2,500 youth in foster care	Total state grant is funded for \$3,500,000
Kansas City	GEAR UP Diploma	3,382 students	\$2,662,400

## 1<sup>ST</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - GEAR UP PROGRAMS

### GEAR UP SITES

OFFICE LOCATION	PROJECT	NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED	FY 22 FUNDING
Dodge City	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 4	Total state grant serves 2,500 youth in foster care	Total state grant is funded for \$3,500,000
Emporia	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 6		
Garden City	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 4		
Great Bend	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 4		
Hays	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 4		
Hutchinson	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 6		
Junction City	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 3		
Lawrence	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 2		
Salina	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 3		
Lawrence	GEAR UP Topeka	400 students	\$320,000

## 4<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - GEAR UP PROGRAMS

### GEAR UP SITES

OFFICE LOCATION	PROJECT	NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED	FY 22 FUNDING
Wichita	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 5	Total state grant serves 2,500 youth in foster care	Total state grant is funded for \$3,500,000
Arkansas City	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 5		
ElDorado	Kansas Kids GEAR UP - Region 6		
Wichita	Wichita GEAR UP (4 grants)	3,700 students	\$2,960,000
Haysville	Haysville GEAR UP	750 students	\$600,000

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

For more than 50 years, the federal TRIO programs have impacted the lives of thousands of low-income, first-generation, veteran and disabled students. Read through these stories to see first hand the difference these programs have made.



### **Aunjnae - Wichita State University, Disability Support Services (DSS)**

Aunjnae B. moved to Wichita from Kansas City in 2016 to attend Wichita State University. She was the first in her family to ever attend college and the thought of leaving behind her family made Aunjnae nervous at first.

It was the close ties that Aunjnae had with her family that helped influence her decision to pursue a college degree. Growing up in Kansas City, life was difficult because in Aunjnae's neighborhood, many were not as successful of making it out of the neighborhood or successful of changing their circumstances. However, Aunjnae and her family knew they wanted something better for her life and were determined make that happen. Aunjnae also

knew that with the support of her family she could do remarkable things.

Aunjnae began her first year of college as a nursing major but fell in love with social work after taking a few classes. In the beginning, Aunjnae struggled with some classes as a first-generation student, Aunjnae signed up for the TRIO Disability Support Services Program which offered Aunjnae support, guidance and resources that made college life a little easier to manage. Aunjnae shares that receiving scholarships, free tutoring and textbooks have truly been a blessing for her as many times Aunjnae did not have the extra finances to pay for those necessary items. Aunjnae's DSS advisors Charity and Shukura have supported her in many ways from advising to looking for graduate school funding.

As a first-generation college student, Aunjnae understands what it is like to have little academic support, even though her family fully supports her academics. So, when the First-Generation Student organization was formed on campus, she served as the vice president and treasurer. Aunjnae felt this would be her opportunity to give back in some way to help others like herself. She encourages first-generation college students to participate in TRIO programs to get additional academic support and resources as she did as a participant of TRIO Disability Support Services.

Today, Aunjnae has returned to Kansas City to start a new career working at a domestic violence shelter. Aunjnae will also begin her social work graduate program at the University of Missouri. When asked what advice Aunjnae wants to with other Wichita State students? Aunjnae wants first-generation African American students to know that there are resources available to support them through college, that they can be successful, but they will have to network and be willing to work hard to achieve their goals of graduation.



### **Leslie Ponce-Diaz - Kansas Kids GEAR UP**

Leslie Ponce-Diaz is currently a 5th-year student studying Architecture and Fine Arts with double minors in Sustainability and Latin American Cultural Studies at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) located in Providence, Rhode Island. She is scheduled to graduate from RISD on June 3rd! Leslie says, "GEAR UP helped me explore various career opportunities and have access to visit my first college campus ever." In 2019, Leslie co-founded the RISD Latinx club, Mango Street, with a group of amazing friends and it continues to live for the upcoming generation of RISD Latinx students on campus.

In 2020, She started her own community organization, First-Gen Chisme, to help support first-generation and low-income students with educational and creative resources to empower and uplift the first-gen community.

In 2021, Leslie pursued a fellowship at RISD and a venture accelerator at Brown University that allowed her to support

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

her community in Kansas City with First-Gen Chisme during the summer. She partnered with KCK USD 500's initiative, 'Enough is Enough', to create opportunities for raising gun violence awareness by supporting the community with back-to-school fairs, vaccine fairs, and educational programming.

In 2022, She studied abroad in Rome, Italy as an exchange student with Cornell University's Architecture, Art, and Planning (Cornell AAP) program, Cornell in Rome. RISD supported 5 students to attend Cornell's program and she had the honor to spend 5 months in Italy learning about architecture, culture, art and the language!

Leslie's passions in architecture, education, public service, and community have led her to be nominated by RISD's President, Rosanne Somerson, for the 2021 Newman Civic Fellowship. A recognition awarded to students passionate about public service and community by their institution's President. Additionally, she was recognized as a 2022 Truman Scholarship Finalist for the State of Kansas. Being one of the few students in the finalist cohort with a design background and being from Wyandotte County.



### **Luis Chavez - University of Kansas, Student Support Services**

Hello, my name is Luis Chavez I was a part of the KU TRIO program for all four years of my undergrad at KU. I come from a small ranching town in North Central Mexico and moved to Kansas with my family at a young age. As a young student, I not only had to assimilate into a foreign culture but also had to deal with the fact we came from very little money and it was going to be a huge struggle to get ahead. By the time I entered High School, I had already caught up with my peers and was starting to think about attending college.

The whole experience was a daunting ordeal for me as we had no basis on what steps I needed to take to get to college or what to do once I got there. While other students had family members who had gone to a four-year university and were able to seek their help, I was essentially alone in my education journey. When I was applying for KU my advisor told me to apply to the TRIO OPTIONS program (an early move-in program the week before my first semester) and it was one of the best decisions I could have made.

From the moment I stepped on campus the KU TRIO Student Support Services team provided me with all the guidance and encouragement I needed to succeed. While I struggled my first semester in a major I disliked, TRIO encouraged me to explore my other interests and gave me the confidence to change my major and explore potential involvement on campus. With TRIO's guidance, I was able to realize my passion for policy and became involved in university governance. With TRIO's help, I was able to take part in two legislative internships one at the Kansas State Capitol and one in Washington, DC. The advice and help that KU TRIO gave me inspired me to pursue the current career path I find myself in. The work I do now in education reform and community service all stemmed from the example the TRIO community instilled in me at KU. I hope to eventually transition to working in education policy for the U.S. Foreign Service to promote equitable education initiatives abroad.



### **David A. Schlesinger - University of Kansas, Trio SES & STEM**

I am writing this letter as a student to advocate for the University of Kansas Trio SES and STEM program and to describe how it has influenced my academic, professional, and personal life. I could go on and on about the multitude of opportunities that the fantastic personnel at KU offers to a diverse set of students, each with their own unique histories and narratives. From the free tutoring, one-on-one support and consultations, campus excursions, resource library, refreshments and beverages for hungry students, and much more, TRIO distinguishes itself from other student support programs on campus. These are all things that the talented Trio team can provide and elaborate on, but what I share goes beyond what someone reads on paper or sees in a program brochure; it's a story of how something that appears to be merely another program, can transform someone's life and make the difference that perhaps that person

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

needed at that particular juncture; and that is what Trio is to me.

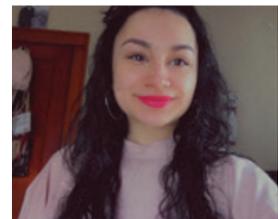
My transition from home to college was arduous. My parents opposed my intention to move out and pursue higher education; they demanded that I remain at home and fulfill their wishes. In contrast, I worked tirelessly in high school, succeeding in my studies, leading my colleagues, engaging with the community, and collaborating closely with GEAR UP, which contributed to my personal development and the formation of lifetime connections, which is why I decided to go to college against their preferences. When I arrived at KU, my parents had abandoned me, cutting me off financially, emotionally, and in every other capacity imaginable. Thus, I was a student who had just relocated to Lawrence to attend KU with virtually limited resources, minimal affiliations, few acquaintances, and, most crucially, what seemed like a lack of support. My mentor recommended me to Trio, and that is when I met Julie Hamel, the Assistant Director of Student Programming, whom I consider to be an inspiration and a source of encouragement to continue succeeding.

When I initially encountered Trio and Julie, she made the effort to sit down and listen to my story, assess my needs, and develop practical strategies, which she implemented with efficiency and diligence. With the generosity of a grant from Trio, I was able to pay for essentials such as food, hygiene supplies, and housing. During the pandemic, finances were a considerable burden for many people, particularly college students, and Trio helped to stifle that with tutoring services, snacks and meals, more financial assistance options, and a support system. Even after the dust settled and my life and stability has become more permanent, they continue to provide me with support whenever I need it.



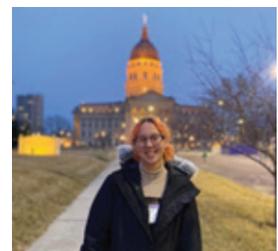
**Gabriel Maldonado - University of Kansas, GEAR UP KCK**

Gabriel Maldonado, former University of Kansas GEAR UP KCK participant, has been selected as the KU Teacher of Promise award while being a KAHPERD Future Professional of the Year Nominee. During Gabriel's four years at KU, he has been an active member in the Multicultural Scholars program and Co-Director at aSTEAM Village. Gabriel received the C.W. Bailey Award and has now graduated from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Science in Education. Gabriel has contributed his success to the opportunities that were available through participating in GEAR UP. Currently, Gabriel is a tutor for the GEAR UP program in Kansas City, Kansas. He tutors multiple students in English, uses his knowledge of GEAR UP and bilingual skills to present to classrooms on financial aid and scholarships, and provides mentorship and advising. As Gabriel shows continuous desire to teach and nurture the young people in his community, he is bound to acquire a teaching position in the community he loves and will be a successful educator.



**Angelique Burris - Emporia State University, McNair Scholar**

My name is Angelique Burris, my major is Psychology at Emporia State University. I plan on getting my Ph.D. in clinical neuropsychology. Currently, I am graduating in December and have been accepted into the ESU Experimental Psychology master's program. After, I plan on applying to Neuropsychology PHD programs. McNair has been a blessing and I found my dream school through McNair and having help financially with conferences and campus tours has helped me be more confident in myself.



**Alyssa Gharmalkar - Emporia State University, Student Support Services and McNair Scholar**

I am a rising senior majoring in history. I can confidently say that I would not be in college today without students support services. I have received so much support and encouragement from this organization. Now I am excited to be a McNair Scholar and continue my education. I want to get a PhD in history and become a college professor.

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES



**Lauren Hazlett, Emporia State University, Student Support Services**

I am a Senior Nursing student at Emporia state. I am originally from Manhattan, KS. I chose to further my academic career at Emporia State because everyone seemed so welcoming on my college visit and the campus felt like a second home. Starting out my freshmen year of college as a first-generation student in a pandemic was less than ideal, but TRIO made life a lot more bearable. TRIO brought me a place that could answer all my questions, many mentors, tutoring, leadership opportunities, and even friends. I have said it many times and will say it again I would have been lost without TRIO!!

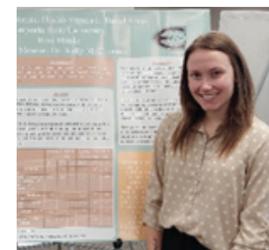


**Shaquan Morris - Emporia State University, Student Support Services and McNair Scholar & Independence Community College, Student Support Services**

I am Shaquan Morris but people who know me call me Quan. I am from Jackson, Mississippi and I was raised in Wichita, Kansas, by a single parent who had a tough time making ends meet. I experienced a lot of poverty in my childhood. It was hard to see my mother struggle and I could not do much to help when I was a kid. That environment shaped me into wanting to learn more about social work and mental health.

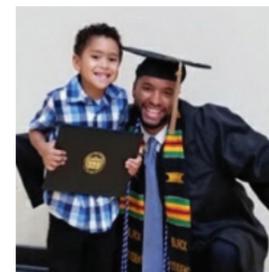
I graduated in December 2022 from Emporia State University (ESU) with a degree in psychology and a minor in Sociology. Community, safety, and consent are highly important to me; thus, I believe that enrolling in a social work graduate program is where I belong. I want to deal with kids through social work who are facing mental health issues but don't have somebody they can talk to about them.

Independence Community College is where I first became a participant in the TRIO Student Support Services program. The encouragement and support from them led me to ESU. I attended ESU because of the TRIO programs there. I started in the TRIO Student Support Services program and was accepted into the McNair Scholars program. Currently, I am in process of deciding where I want to attend school for my master's degree.



**Rosa Blaske - Emporia State University, Student Support Services and McNair Scholar**

Rosa Blaske, an alumna of Emporia State University and its McNair Scholars Program, is working on a Master's in Applied Family Science graduate program at Kansas State University. She accepted a graduate research assistant position and is conducting research about childcare in the state of Kansas. Rosa, a first-generation student who grew up in a rural community in Kansas, hopes to give back to her community by helping improve the mental health of people living in rural areas.



**Kaleb Barber - Emporia State University, Student Support Services**

Kaleb's personality is welcoming and kind and one is always met with a smile. He truly wants to make others happy and for them to know of their great worth.

As a participant of the Student Support Services program at Emporia State University, Kaleb participated in a project in which he wrote his personal narrative of being a first-generation college student. He shared candidly about his past and how he was determined to be a role model to his son, Kris. Kris was born when Kaleb was a senior in high school. Kaleb realized that he needed to make decisions that would be in the best interest of his son - he needed to get

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

an education so he could provide for him, and he needed to learn how to be the best dad that he could be. Kris is now an adorable, smart seven-year-old. Kaleb is being a role model, and I have no doubt that Kris will someday be following in his footsteps as a college student.

Kaleb finished his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and decided to pursue a master's degree in School Counseling with a licensed professional counseling credential. As the graduate assistant for the Upward Bound program at ESU, He is an exceptional role model, mentor, and advocate for the academic and summer components of our program while maintaining a 3.9 GPA. The students seek him out for advice, encouragement, and guidance. He acknowledges their efforts, empowers them to choose constructive decisions, and always affirms their inherent worth.

Kaleb has made a very intentional effort to be involved on campus. He sees this as a way to make a difference while honing his leadership, communication, and organizational skills. He has been involved in the Black Student Union and the Men of Excellence program, served as a Diversity Ambassador, and was inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society. Additionally, Kaleb was a long jumper on the men's indoor and outdoor track teams, earning Athletic Directors Honor Roll distinction and best teammate twice. In an effort to provide as much as possible financially for his son, he also works a second part-time job off campus. Managing his time takes commitment and focus; skills that Kaleb is demonstrating in a powerful way.

As a future professional, Kaleb will be able to share his talents with others while demonstrating his dedication to bettering the future of his community. He has a strong desire to work with potential first-generation, low-income, minority students and "pay forward" the guidance and support he received from TRIO.



### **Taelor Sockey - Haskell Indian Nations University, Student Support Services**

Taelor Sockey is born in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. She is enrolled in the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. With being born in Oklahoma, she was raised in Mississippi on the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Reservation. Ms. Sockey is a senior in the Indigenous and American Indian Studies Program and plans on graduating in May. Choctaw, Mississippi is far from Lawrence, Kansas but what drew her to Haskell Indian Nations University in August 2019 was her mother. Her mother came to Haskell as well as her grandmother. The first program she joined was the TRIO Program. Since enrolling into the program, Taelor has done a tremendous amount of studying and maintaining her grades as an athlete, student, and also by helping other students with their classwork. Over the years, Taelor

has received assistance from TRIO with her writing, studying, time-management, and communication skills. Taelor is also a member of the Emerging Student Leaders team at Haskell. Her most memorable moment is meeting Sharice Davids and welcoming her onto Haskell Campus and leading an empowerment panel with other Emerging Student Leaders for students during the Fall 2022 semester. After Haskell, Taelor hopes to continue her education after Haskell and pursue a master's degree. Taelor's goal in life is to become a Federal Judge. She does know that she would have to become a lawyer first and her response is "Becoming a lawyer is just a small stepping stone that will be celebrated because it is a step closer to where I see myself at in the future."



### **Brice Harader-Pate - Cowley College, Upward Bound**

Brice is one of those students whose story doesn't stop after graduation. When she entered the Cowley College Upward Bound Program in 2001, she was a shy young lady who really had no direction. She had always been interested in the Math and Sciences, so we started with that.

Brice was a model student during her high school career and she continued that tradition throughout college. She believes in the ideal that education is a priority and the main way to a better life. She is determined and completes the endeavors she undertakes.

Her passion for the medical field, in particular Nursing, has led her down an adventurous path.

## STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

As an ER Trauma nurse, she has proved herself over and over again, that patient's lives matter. So much so, that she has completed her Nurse Practitioners degree and received her Doctorate of Nursing Practices in 2021. One of her biggest passions is medical missions work. Each year Brice travels to Africa, through the Kenya Relief Organization, to provide affordable health care for people who might never have the opportunity to even meet with a doctor.

As you can see, Brice has grown from a shrinking violet into a powerful and beautiful woman of great character. She shines so brightly and is willing to share that light of learning with all she sees. She is a rare and valuable jewel in this world. It is people like her who make everything we do, worth it. TRIO Works!

One of Brice's favorite quotes is, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." -Harriet Tubman



### **Anthony White-Green - Cowley County Community College, Student Support Services**

As an alumnus, Anthony White-Green had a positive experience with the Student Support Services at Cowley College, referred to by students as the Impact program. Impact helped him overcome some social barriers and build meaningful relationships with others who had similar commonalities.

Anthony believed the staff members in the program were invested in his success and future, creating a family-like environment that made him feel comfortable and supported. Anthony was exposed to new people and places, giving him a valuable perspective that he still carries today. These opportunities were incredibly beneficial for his personal growth and development as he was a member of the Cowley Dean's Honor Roll for two seasons, successful on the basketball court, and was crowned the Cowley Homecoming King in 2012. Anthony graduated from Cowley

College in 2012 with a bachelor of science degree in Pre-Engineering and from Friends University in 2015 with a degree in math.

For the next six seasons, he was an assistant coach at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. He made two NAIA Championship appearances, won the 2015 KCAC Tournament championship, and produced three NAIA All-Americans and 20 Scholar-Athletes. Anthony White-Green is currently in his second season with the Blue Dragon Men's Basketball program in Hutchinson, KS working with head coach Tommy DeSalme, who was his head coach for two seasons at Cowley College in the 2010-11 and 2011-12 seasons.

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