

OUR TEAM

Message from the Director

On October 1st, 2018, Wichita State University was awarded \$4.2 million dollars in funding from the U.S. Department of Education to implement GEAR UP in Haysville school district USD 261 through 2025. I want to give a special Thank you to those that served a crucial role in writing this grant. I would not be able to take on this challenge without the essential help and assistance from Ms. Deltha Colvin, Associate Vice President of Office of Special Programs, Mrs. Corinne Nilsen, Director of Kansas Kids @ GEAR UP, and Dr. Alana Dsouza, Policy & Analyst Director.



As a new program we had to start from the ground up. We became fully staffed in April of 2019. Our office is comprised of a Director, one Database Coordinator, two College Access Coordinators, four College Access Advisors, and four College Access Mentors. All College Access Advisors carry a case load of students and are assigned to specific schools. Staff also work collaboratively to create and implement workshops, campus tours, and educational activities outside of the school day.

In the summer of 2019, we offered college campus tours (3) and workshops on a weekly basis during our four-week summer programming schedule. These activities included opportunities for community service, job exploration, college preparation, leadership and more. We took students to one leadership conference in Sedalia, Missouri at State Fair Community College. These select students were able to accompany two of our staff to participate to develop their leadership and interpersonal skills.

We continued to lay out the foundation for Fall 2019 & Spring 2020, as we anticipate being fully integrated within each middle school. Next school year will be a season of change as we implement services during and after-school programs, homework assistance, weekend fun, college trips and of course, GEAR UP Week. Next fall is just a taste of what GEAR UP students can look forward to for the next several years.