

## Congratulations, KU Women's Recognition Award Recipients!

On Thursday, March 27, our Director, Dr. Maritza Machado-Williams, was inducted into The University of Kansas

Women's Hall of Fame. Dr. Machado-Williams has worked at SES for more than 15 years. Like many of our students, she is a first-generation college student who has overcome substantial obstacles to earn her de-

grees. She was born and raised in Panama and from an early age had the dream of pursuing an education.

From humble beginnings, she remained focused on her dream of obtaining a college degree and providing opportunities for others wishing to pursue that dream. After earning her Bachelor's Degree in Education and teaching students with disabilities for twelve years in Panama, Maritza was selected as a Fulbright Scholar. With limited English skills and three children, she came to the United States to pursue a Master's Degree in Education at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Upon receiving her degree, she moved to Lawrence, Kansas in 1992 and began a remarkable career of service to Kansas students.

The SES staff nominated Maritza for the Women's Hall of Fame Award because we believed she was most deserving

of this high honor. She works behind the scenes to secure grants, funds, scholarships, loans, projects, food, tutors, classes, free services, computers, opportunities, advancements, and yes, success. So much success! Her success rate for securing grants (which pay for the services at SES) is astonishing.

Some of her accomplishments include:

- Advanced Academic Achievement and Degrees as a First-Generation College Student
- Ph.D. in Education- Curriculum and Instruction, The University of Kansas, 2007
- Life-Long Commitment

- Underrepresented and Underserved Populations Author and Principal Investigator of nine grants all serving underrepresented students and creating educational opportunities that would not otherwise be available
- More than 10 years of work experience teaching special education students in Panama
- More than 15 years of work experience with low-income, first-generation college students and students with disabilities at KU Supportive Educational Services
- National Leadership and Recognition President, Missouri-Kansas-Nebraska Chapter of Mid-American Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel, a regional association of TRIO personnel

From the SES staff and students, congratulations, Nelly and Dr. Machado-Williams!



SES Director Dr. Machado-Williams (left) stands with Nelly Gototho, a SES student earning a B.S. in Chemical Engineering. Dr. Machado-Williams was the recipient of this year's KU Women's Hall of Fame, and Gototho received the Outstanding International Women's Student award.

