Message From the Director

As another year comes to a close it is always a good time to reflect on what we have accomplished. Most people begin a new year with certain goals in mind that they’d like to achieve. For example, some of us want to lose weight, get a better job, make better grades, quit smoking, or go to church more often. Whatever the case may be, setting goals at the beginning of the year should be an effort to make ourselves better human beings. If you didn’t quite reach your goals or worse yet, didn’t make any goals for this year, you may feel a little disappointed in yourself. While this time of the year encourages more eating, sleeping, drinking, partying, and relaxing it should also be a time for identifying goals for the coming year—2005. You may want to keep the same goals with slight alterations or you may want to create new ones. The good thing about a new year is that it feels like a new beginning.

People who reach their goals have two very special secrets. One, is they know what they want to improve and the other is, they know how to make a plan to reach their goal. Doesn’t sound very hard, does it? All of us possess the ability to create a goal and plan to reach that goal. If you have a hard time doing one or both of these, talk to your Project Discovery counselor. They will be able to help you. I hope that a goal for all the students in the program is to make the best possible grades during 2005. The other hope that I have is for all students to have a healthy and productive new year.

Happy Holidays,

Larry Ramos
MONEY FOR COLLEGE
by Darryl Neighbor

Do you need money to help pay for college? If you do, you might want to schedule some time in the computer lab to search for scholarships.

We have new material in our library to help you with your scholarship search. There is a book by Benjamin R. Kaplan and an accompanying CD to help you with your quest.

Mr. Kaplan says, “Scholarships are within the reach of all students. You don’t have to be some kind of academic whiz to win cash for college. You don’t have to possess the service record of a Mother Teresa or the moves of a Michael Jordan either.”

You will discover how to:
- Find scholarships right for you
- Craft compelling essays
- Apply winning guerrilla tactics
- Slash an extra 25% off your tuition
- Get into the college of your choice.

Make arrangements with your Project Discovery EDA/Counselor to use our computer lab.

FAFSA
by Stephanie Haynes

Are you finding yourself running around in circles, trying to make sure that you have gotten everything done that you need to do in order to be admitted to your post secondary institution. Stop, run no more. Your TRIO counselor is here to help you with your admissions application process, actives resume/chart, assist you in applying and filling out scholarship applications, contact a school on your behalf and help you file your FREE APPLICATION for FEDERAL STUDENT AID. Contact your counselor today.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
by Reuben Eckels

Sharee Bask Reed always knew she had it in her. In the past Sharee just could not seem to focus on her academics. This school year is a different story. At Alcott Academy she has made the honor roll with a 3.89 grade point average. Sharee looks forward to attending Northeast Magnet next semester and hopes to one day go into the medical field. As the 2004 winner of the Educational Talent Search/Project Discovery Summer Enrichment Program Achievement Award the staff is not surprised. We knew she had the ability to do well in school. We are glad we had a hand in helping her realize her potential. Congratulations Sharee and keep up the good work!

PARENT INFORMATION
by Romey Lopez

This past semester has been a very busy one for both me and my students. My main focus for seniors has been taking the ACT and preparing them for the test. I have helped to prepare them by having mini-ACT practice over English, Math, and Science sections. In addition, seniors have been assigned to get their PINs for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), so we can get started on filling the application out in January. For my juniors, sophomores, and freshmen, we have gotten together on both an individual and group basis to discuss the different scholarship opportunities. Many of the scholarships offered are based on taking the right classes, while also maintaining a good grade point average. So parents, encourage your kids to take those demanding classes for the second part of this school year and the next school year to better prepare them for the ACT and scholarship opportunities. If you don’t know what classes your student is taking or needs to take, just contact the postsecondary counselor at your student’s school.
Are You a College Bound Senior?
by Earl Vore

Get to know your college campus. As you get signed up for college it is time to work on getting yourself oriented to your college. You need to know where to get information and how to get around the campus.

Almost all colleges have the same type of offices, e.g., there is usually an admissions office, financial-aid office, housing department, advisor’s office or department, a place to eat, a place to pay, a place to register for classes, to receive medical attention, to work out, to see a movie, to see a game, to do research in a library, to receive counseling and career advice, and to receive tutoring. Your Job, if you choose to accept it, is to figure out where these places are on campus. Find out what services they offer since almost all the services are free because you paid tuition. It is best to just show up and introduce yourself. In addition, be sure you show up for all orientations given for new students.

Additionally, since you are in Project Discovery you may be eligible for more free services if the college has a Student Support Services (TRIO) program.

Senior Information
by Heather Ybarra

As 2004 comes to an end seniors may seem a bit panicked if certain items were not checked off their “to do list.” The fall semester should have been filled with applying for admission to at least three to five universities, submitting scholarship applications, and visiting campuses. By now, seniors should be in the process of narrowing down their final choices for the university they would like to attend. Do not panic if these tasks are not completed - JUST GET BUSY!!!!!

As January soon approaches the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will be available through a number of sources, one being your Educational Talent Search/Project Discovery counselor. The FAFSA is an application used nation wide. This application will allow student to see what he/she is eligible for, such as pell grants, student loans and work study. The FAFSA is largely based on income. With this in mind, seniors will not be able to complete this application without certain financial information obtained by their parents. It is extremely crucial that parents and students work together to accomplish this goal. Of course, there are always going to be particular circumstances which may need to be addressed individually with the Financial Aid Office at the particular university of choice. However, for the most part students will need parents’ financial information (2004 tax returns).

Please feel free to visit with your Educational Talent Search/Project Discovery counselor with your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) questions and concerns. To obtain forms, submit the FAFSA, as well as make corrections visit:

https://fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm

WSU National TRIO Day
February 16, 2005

Mark Your Calendar!!
The rains will come
The snow will fall,
A chill in the air
Bitter cold.

The trees will be bare
For the months ahead,
And the world will
Seem drab and old.

But soon the trees
Will bud again,
And the birds will
Begin to sing.

As they pronounce
To the world,
There is hope ahead
And an open door to spring.

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Visit us on the Web: webs.wichita.edu/talentsearch

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