Greetings! As we approach the holiday season, I want to encourage all of our students to take a moment from the hustle and bustle of the season to reflect on all that is good in their lives. Too many times, we fail to stop and smell the roses which really help each of us to appreciate what we have. For our juniors and seniors, while you are thinking of the many blessing you have in your family and friends, I hope that you will remember to be thankful for your Talent Search counselor. They want you to succeed—not only in school, but in life as well. If you haven't had the opportunity to speak with your Talent Search counselor about your college plans, then now is a good time to add that to your list of New Year's resolutions. Remember, your Talent Search counselor can help you with finding the right college and figuring out how to best pay for it. If you need to take the ACT or SAT, they can help you prepare for it and possibly obtain a registration fee waiver. Did you know that most colleges and universities that you apply to will waive the application fee because you are in the Talent Search program? By being in the Talent Search program, you don't have to worry about how many schools you apply to because of the application fees. But, more important than the above mentioned opportunities is that you will have gained someone who is in your corner willing to help you in any way possible with your future plans.

NEWS FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (SEP)

Photo Essay Winners
By Linda Sessions, Assistant Director

During the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) students participated in the TRIO Photo Essay program. Out of the six entries that our program submitted, four of them received national awards.

In the June program, Destiny Thomas made it to the Middle School Quarterfinals with her creative writing, “My Mom is…” All three of the winners from the July session made it to the Middle School Quarterfinals: Shanae Greasham for her creative writing, Flow; Anna Santiago for her autobiographical writing, The Last Week Spent; and Nelson Ross for his opinion, The Unexplored Side of Video. Shanae Greasham’s creative writing went on to make the Middle School Semifinals! Congratulations to all of these winners. We are planning to offer the TRIO Photo Essay program again next year during the SEP.
Greetings to all of you! Life is always presenting challenges to us. Your success depends on you. If you want to achieve things in life, only YOU can make it happen. Here are six Ps to success for you to consider:

**PROMPT**
It is important to be on time to school and each class.

**PREPARED**
You should arrive to your class prepared to work. This means having your books, paper, pencil and all other materials you will need for that class.

**POLITE**
No one likes a person who is rude. You should always say **PLEASE** and **THANK YOU**. You will be surprised with the difference it will make.

**POSTIVE ATTITUDE**
Maintain a good attitude no matter what the situation might be. Keeping a positive attitude helps eliminate conflict and negative influences.

**PARTICIPATE**
Take part in your school's activities. The more you take part in school, the more you feel you are a part of the school. You will gain a sense of pride in what you are doing in school.

**PRODUCE**
Your work will be a good product when you are prompt, prepared, polite, have a positive attitude, and participate.

*Remember: “To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.” Steve Prefontaine*

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**MENTORING**

By Myron Richard, EDA

My name is Myron Richard; I currently hold the position of Educational Development Assistant/Mentoring Coordinator for the Talent Search/Project Discovery Program at WSU.

My number one objective is to assist high school students into post secondary education. I aim to provide the schools I am assigned to with additional resources that will help reduce some of the barriers that exist for low income and potential first generation college students. I work intensively with students to identify and address the issues which influence their education.

I believe in the potential of youth and work to encourage and guide students in realizing that potential. As a mentor, I hope to play a significant part in moving the community forward and the development of future leaders. I assume the best approach is to raise the level of educational achievement, help young people develop socially, and enhance career prospects.

In closing, I seek to provide an early and transforming intervention in the lives of students so that together, with their schools, they may begin to build a brighter future.

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CAMPUS VISITS
By Linda Sessions, Assistant Director

Campus visits are just one of the many services offered by Talent Search. Over the course of the 2006-2007 school year, a total of sixteen different visits to universities are being offered to students in the Talent Search program. Visits to Emporia State University, Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, Pittsburg State University, Wichita State University, Oklahoma State University, and Butler County Community College have been completed so far this year.

Each visit usually begins with an informative session about the college given by an admissions representative. The costs of attending and the majors offered are explained to the students. At many colleges, a TRIO staff member will discuss support services for students such as tutoring, advising, scholarships, and career assistance. A representative from the financial aid office explains grants, loans, and scholarships for students. Students then tour the resident halls (dorms) at each campus. Lunch is usually offered in the campus cafeteria or university dining.

A campus tour is often given by a student ambassador following lunch. Most of the participants enjoy walking around campus and enjoy the interaction with the student guide. Students leave the campus knowing much more about the college which helps them to decide if that college is the right fit for them.

Students interested in future campus visits should contact their Talent Search advisor to find out about the campus visits being offered in the Spring.

CAREER CORNER
Going Right On
By Earl Vore, EDA

Where will you be and what will you be doing when you’re 35, 40 or even 55 years old? You don’t know? Someday you will be the parents with sons and daughters in high school. You will be the voters and people who run the country. You will be the people who are responsible for the success or failure of the American dream! How can any of us prepare and plan for a future so uncertain in the changing world? Think of all the inventions and technological advances you have seen in your life.

The Going Right On presentation by Project Discovery helps students and young adults find answers to the questions about their future. It helps students prepare for good careers in our changing society and includes discussion on the job market and the skills required to meet the demands of a changing technological society. Students begin to realize that career planning begins in high school with taking the right classes and staying in school to learn the skills they will need in the future.

The Going Right On presentation includes the following topics: academics in high school; planning for college; what admissions officers look for in students; SAT and ACT tests; common excuses for not going to college; career planning; and choosing a college. A planning calendar is presented on what students should do each year in high school, what classes to take, and how to prepare for the SAT and ACT tests. Financial aid and what needs to be done to plan for college is explained.

Also, a list of the 10 most common excuses for not going on to college is given and reasons why each is wrong.

The workshop makes the strong connection between a good education and future success. If you are concerned about your future and would like further counseling to assist you in educational and career development, contact your Project Discovery counselor.
FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION
By Heather Ybarra

This is the time for scholarship searches, college preparation, and submitting applications. Each scholarship has specific requirements; however, the Personal Statement seems to be a constant staple of scholarship applications. A personal statement is your time to shine. No one knows you better than you! Scholarship committees see hundreds of applications each semester. Make your personal statement one to remember.

As I begin my fifth year with WSU TRIO Talent Search, I have had the privilege of working with a number of students. Each year, I am blessed to assist a handful of students who make a lasting impression. Cecil Brooks is one of those students. Coincidently, he was referred to me by another student who also gave a lasting impression—his cousin, Elisabeth Bradshaw-Adair. Cecil Brooks is a Wichita Heights High School graduate (class of 2006) and Talent Search alumni. Cecil is currently attending Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. I approached Cecil regarding his personal statement in hopes of him lending his words to share. He graciously agreed and I am so thankful. Cecil tenaciously applied for as many scholarships as he possibly could. His dedication and commitment paid off. The burden of cost to attend college was offset by the many scholarships Cecil was awarded. I hope you enjoy Cecil’s words as much as I do.

It is a cold morning and the incessant ring of the alarm clock startles me out of bed, and I find myself wishing for the times when the smell of my mother’s breakfast gently roused me into consciousness. I begin my morning rituals and head off down stairs to make breakfast for the rest of the family; so my childhood memories can become theirs. I find with every sip of coffee I become more and more excited about the day ahead. I drift upstairs and tell the kids that it is time to get up and I help them pick out their clothes for their first day of kindergarten. It’s funny, but with all of the trouble they like to cause it saddens me to see them grow up.

After I see the kids off, it’s time to make the money. I jump in the car and brace myself for one of the most hectic parts of my day—morning rush hour. Keeping my eyes on the road, I project on what the day will be like and how much fun the business trip to the Chicago Auto Show will be. When I finally reach my destination, I take time to appreciate the awesome building, which houses, what is in my opinion, the greatest collective talent in the world. It has a magnificent glass awning crowned by the world renowned symbol of class. “A” has a pair of winds with a “B” for Bentley printed in the middle.

As I walk in the door, I am greeted by the receptionist, Rose, who always has a smile on her face. As I begin my journey toward the elevator, I greet the new interns. It does not seem that long ago I was in that position. Walking on, I see my old office; it is funny that what had appeared so big now appears so small. I reflect on all of the hard work that went into arriving at the position I am in now and how far I have come. I arrive at the elevator in a timely fashion and it begins its slow ascent to the top floor. As the doors open, I enter a new world filled with board members, deadlines, contracts, and numbers. In this world, my talent becomes apparent and I feel a sense of dedication and pride in my work.

As the day nears its end, I put the finishing touches on a project and then I prepare myself for the second, most hectic, part of my day—evening rush hour. I then jump into the car and return to the family that I love dearly.

Currently, it is my ultimate goal to work for a car company, be it Bentley or GM. In my opinion, the work environment these companies provide mesh well with my interests and overall talent for business. I know it will be a very difficult goal to accomplish, but I feel that I am up to the task. I plan to get my undergraduate degree in international business and foreign language and then move on to get a Masters in Business Administration. I think this path will allow me to pursue a number of careers and enrichment opportunities. Besides a career and educational goals, my sincere hope is to provide my future family with the financial and emotional stability it needs to flourish.

Cecil Brooks III
DOING YOUR BEST ON THE ACT ASSESSMENT

By Mani Souriya, EDA

Seniors and Juniors, plan on taking the ACT as soon as possible! Check out the upcoming test dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Regular Deadline</th>
<th>Late Fee Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 14, 2007</td>
<td>March 9, 2007</td>
<td>March 10-23, 2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Test your skills and see if you can answer these sample questions:

1. For all \(x\), \((3x+7)^2\)~?
   - A. \(6x + 14\)
   - B. \(6x^2 + 14\)
   - C. \(9x^2 + 49\)
   - D. \(9x^2 + 21x + 49\)
   - E. \(9x^2 + 42x + 49\)

2. When \(1/3k + 1/4k = 1\), what is the value of \(k\)?
   - A. \(1/7\)
   - B. \(12/7\)
   - C. \(7/2\)
   - D. \(6\)
   - E. \(12\)

Answers:

1. E
2. B