TRIO Talent Search
Discovery Newsletter

As the school comes to an abrupt end and students begin to take a much needed break from protractors, textbooks, and tests, the Talent Search program staff wants to acknowledge its students for all the hard work they put in this year. Special congratulations go out to all the graduating seniors. As one chapter ends another begins. In a few months many of the program’s seniors will be entering college for the first time. It’s definitely an exciting time!

Speaking of exciting, several program students received special recognition at their respective schools for academic and co-curricular achievements. Here are some of those high achievers: Shelby Alexander, Southeast (Principal’s Leadership Award; and President’s Education Award Program); Donald Anderson, Southeast (Southeast Distinguished Scholars Program; Kansas Honors Program; and President’s Education Awards Program); Joey Barnes, Heights (Gold Cord Award; Kansas Board of Regents Scholar; and Outstanding Seniors); Akela Bayouth, West (Kansas Governor’s Scholar); Quentin Brooks, Heights (Valedictorian, Governor’s Scholar; Kansas Board of Regents Scholar; President’s Education Award; National Honor Society; and Outstanding Seniors); Kasey Dolloff, Heights (National Honor Society); Dominique Duque, Northeast (Governor’s Scholar); Tiara Frazier, Heights (Student Council Vice-President); Kendric Maple, Heights (Outstanding Senior Young Man; Kansas Coaches Association All American Wrestler; and Outstanding Seniors); Veronica Maples, Heights (Kansas Board of Regents Scholar; National Honor Society; and Gold Cord Award); Marcus McNeal, Heights (Outstanding Seniors); Kameron Neal, Heights (Gold Cord Award); Ashley Petty, East (Governor’s Scholar); Sanjiv Patel, South (Governor’s Scholar); Katherine Powell, Southeast (Southeast Distinguished Scholars Program; President’s Education Award Program; Kansas Honors Program; and Kansas Scholars Curriculum); Mikel Regular, Heights (National Honor Society); True Tran, North (Governor’s Scholar); Deja Turner, Heights (Outstanding Seniors); and Rene Wilson, Southeast (President’s Education Awards Program).

While there is not enough room here to list the special awards and recognitions of all Talent Search graduating seniors, the program counselors (Myron Richard, Tia Owens, and Johana Salas) extend a hearty “congratulations” to the students and “best wishes” for a bright and successful future!

~ Larry Ramos
Earning money is an excellent way for teenagers to learn about money management and have some extra spending cash. So guys, let’s get started!! Groovejob.com is a good source for finding summer work and teen jobs in Wichita, Kansas. The site provides a list of employers by typing in a zip code to find jobs and to apply online! Some of the jobs include Vector Marketing, Sears Portrait Studio, and the Home Depot. Remember to check back with Groovejob.com on a regular basis. The site adds new part time job listings to the database every week so new opportunities can be found daily. However, with the current job recession, it may not be as easy to find work within large companies. So, think outside the box!! Some of the jobs that teach teens life skills include providing lawn services, babysitting, pet and house-sitting, washing cars, computer assistance, tutoring, and having a garage sale. There are various ways to utilize one’s unique talents while making money. This helps teens learn about business, finances and time management as well as serves as preparation for future jobs and careers! Whatever is chosen to do, have a great summer!!

Meet Ryan Seme
Educational Development Assistant, Career Coordinator

Ryan Seme is the new Educational Development Assistant for the Talent Search office located in Parsons, KS. Originally from Stockton, CA Mr. Seme is a veteran of the United States Navy, an honor shared by all of the men in his family for the past three generations. After leaving the Navy, Ryan used the Montgomery GI Bill to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management & Leadership from Friends University, and is currently pursuing an MBA at the same institution. Ryan comes to Talent Search from a successful career as a Financial Advisor. Motivated by a desire to give back to a community that has given him so much, he is looking forward to marrying his financial experience with his passion for higher education in a way that will enlighten and motivate a new generation of Kansans to pursue the educational opportunities that will allow them to find success and improve their communities.
Navigating new parental roles when a child goes off to college can be hard to do, but it is important in order to maintain a good relationship. Since the child is growing up and becoming an adult, they no longer want or need to be told what to do. They do however, need their parents to become partners and sometimes even mentors while they are discovering who they are and experiencing life at college.

Advice for Parents of TRIO Students Transitioning to College

Johana Salas, Educational Development Assistant, Financial Aid Coordinator

Not only are high school seniors trying to get as much information as possible about how to best transition to their new college life, but parents, as well, are calling with questions about how to best support their children. Parents are feeling a mix of intense emotions. On the one side they feel proud of their college-bound students and on the other side they still feel some sadness about their child growing up and moving away. An article on www.ecampustours.com offers advice to parents learning to let go, and what it means to now be parenting a young adult.

Be a good listener. During their freshman year, college students will probably call their parents a lot to complain about professors, roommates, schoolwork, etc. Unless they ask for advice, don't start spouting off what they should or shouldn't do. Don't pass judgment; just try to lend a sympathetic ear.

Encourage problem solving. After listening to the student complain about a certain situation on campus, try to get them to come up with a solution on their own. Ask open-ended questions that will initiate discussion and help them come to a decision about what they should do on their own. An opinion may be offered if they really want to know, but let them decide the final outcome. The student’s willingness to make a decision suggests that they are growing and maturing.

Practice Trust. College is a time for students to develop their personal and professional identities, interests, and values. Even though parents want their child to make certain decisions, they may want something completely different. Trust that the student is making the right decision to fit their specific needs. Not everyone is the same, and college is a time for students to grow as a people and find out who they are.

Provide support. One of the best ways to provide support to college students is to send love from home. This can be in the form of emails, letters, cards, care packages, etc. These simple gestures will let the child know that their parents are thinking about them even though they aren't physically there.

Find a time to connect. Remaining connected to the child while they are away at college is crucial in establishing an adult relationship. Try to set up a time each week to talk with them on the telephone. Talk about worldly news, class discussions, and other adult-related topics. Having mature conversations with the child will allow them to see their parents as more than just parents.

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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2009!

Myron Richard
Educational Development Counselor, Mentoring Coordinator

The TRIO Talent Search Program would like to take this opportunity to congratulate continuing students on a job well done. And to graduating seniors, high school is now completed and a new and exciting journey in life is beginning. Whether attending a small or large university, success lies ahead. Talent Search wishes all students the best of luck in all future endeavors!

"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."
- Malcolm X