TRIO Talent Search

VOLUME 8, ISSUE #1
WINTER 2009

IMPORTANT DATES
- Southwestern College Campus Visit, 12/3/09
- ACT test, 12/12/09
- ACT registration deadline for Feb. 6 test, 1/5/10
- ACT Prep Workshop, 1/16/10
- Newman University Campus Visit, 2/5/10
- ACT test, 2/6/10
- National TRIO Day, 2/9/10
- Financial Aid Workshop, 2/13/10
- WSU Campus Visit, 2/19/10
- College Goal Sunday, 2/21/10

For more information, contact Talent Search at 978-3127 or visit online.

Logan, Ryan, Stephanie, Myron, Karen, Johana, Larry and Tia

Message from the Director

As the end of another year quickly approaches, the program remains a strong and vibrant commodity for students and their families. Just a few weeks ago the Annual Performance Report was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in Washington D.C. As expected, the program met all of its objectives for the year. To highlight some of the program’s accomplishments the following provides a brief yet effective overview of the successes for the 2008-2009 year:

- The program served 1,587 students in USD 259 and in rural southeast Kansas
- 27 target schools were served
- 99 percent of underclassmen were promoted to the next grade level
- 276 students received a diploma or high school equivalency
- 257 students were assisted by program staff to apply for financial aid (grants, loans and/or scholarships)
- 251 students were assisted by program staff to apply for admission to postsecondary education
- 232 students enrolled in postsecondary education in fall 2009

The counselor staff (Stephanie Haynes, Tia Owens, Myron Richard, Johana Salas, Ryan Seme and Mani Souriya) dedicated themselves to ensure the students were served with care and expertise. The support staff (Logan Stork and Karen Duncan) was instrumental in maintaining an infrastructure that was conducive to the success of the program. In short, a total team effort produced the results mentioned above. Expectations for the 2009-2010 year are high. With the talented and dedicated staff, repeating 2008-2009 outcomes are well within reach.

~ Larry Ramos

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TRIO Talent Search/Project Discovery is 100% funded by the United States Department of Education and is hosted by Wichita State University. Funds for 2009-2010 are $513, 873.
A Talent Search student works on an assignment at the Homework Assistance Program.

How did Talent Search Graduates Fare in Postsecondary Enrollment?

Manivone Souriya, Assistant Director/Statistician

Happy Holidays! Talent Search is proud to announce that all of its mandatory objectives have been exceeded for the 2008-2009 grant year. Out of the 284 college-ready participants that were served, 232 (82 percent) enrolled in postsecondary education. The U.S. Department of Education requires the program to enroll 75 percent of its college ready students in postsecondary education. Arranged by target high school, the graph below illustrates the distribution and types of postsecondary institution participants enrolled in. Now, Talent Search has something to be jolly about this holiday season!

![Graph showing the distribution of types of postsecondary institutions where Talent Search graduates enrolled.]

Reaching Potential

Stephanie Haynes, Middle School Director

What does “reaching one’s potential” mean? Reaching potential simply means working to the best of one’s ability to achieve and become what is desired in life as an individual. Getting what one wants out of life doesn’t just happen; rather one has to make it happen.

To reach desired potential, first take a honest look at oneself, get the most out of education, be flexible, think about what is important and don’t be afraid to take a chance.

Secondly, set goals that are realistic and easily obtainable. This should include short and long term goals. Finally, explore potential careers that best reflect one’s abilities, desires and interests in order to ensure personal growth and advancement.

*Remember that success depends on oneself!*
Student Spotlight: MARCEL WEBB

Marcel Webb is a senior at Heights High School. She has completed the Kansas pre-college curriculum (KBOR) with a remarkable GPA. Webb has gained admission to the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. One day she will become a pharmacist and she will be the first in her family to obtain a college degree. Webb has been very active in her community. She is also part of the varsity basketball team at her school. Her involvement and leadership experience will allow her to compete for many scholarships, including the Ron Brown Scholarship. Besides applying for scholarships, Webb will be applying for federal aid by completing the FAFSA in February.

Webb has been in the Talent Search program since she was in eighth grade! Webb is very active in the program and she is constantly taking advantage of the services provided, such as college readiness sessions, ACT fee waivers, campus visits and admission fee grants.

College Prep Courses

Do student’s high school course selections match what most colleges expect them to know? For example, many colleges require two to four years of foreign language study. Successful completion of the courses listed in the recommended college prep courses chart below is commonly expected of prospective students. Of course, each college and university may have different high school course requirements. Be sure to check with the colleges to see what they recommend or require.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended College Prep Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>English</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Courses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
One of the best ways to see if a college is right for a student is for them to visit a campus and "try it on for size." Talent Search offers students the opportunity to go on campus visits to learn about admissions, financial aid, housing options, majors and other college-related matters.

The campus visit is a crucial part of the college decision process. It is a time to ask questions, take a tour, sit in on classes and obtain an overall perspective of the college's unique atmosphere. Visiting different colleges helps give students a better understanding of which college is right for them. Contact Talent Search for more information about attending a campus visit.

Finding a Good College Fit

Myron Richard, Educational Development Assistant

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Students at a recent campus visit to Langston University in Langston, OK