

TRIO Talent Search-South Newsletter

Director's Message

Due to the snow and cold weather, students were forced to miss a lot of school. Hopefully these natural occurrences did not have a profound impact on students learning what they needed to master. A handful of parents reported that their student(s) spent those snow days reading, practicing their musical instruments, and yes – even studying! If students spent their time in bed, or worse, on their phones, they may just find that they are not where they need to be at this point in the school year. TRIO Talent Search-South understands this and is utilizing the Talent Search After School Tutoring Program as a priority to help students get back on track. Students may stop by or fill out an online tutor request form. Visit www.wichita.edu/talentsearch for more information. Also, middle school students may apply for the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) for more intensive support and assistance. For more on the SEP and to fill out the program application, visit www.wichita.edu/tss.



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Ramos with Middle School Director Stephanie Haynes and former Talent Search/Summer Enrichment Program participants



High School Journey

Kathy Nguyen, Program Educational Advisor



Senior year can feel overwhelming—college applications, FAFSA, and the pressure to finish classes and graduate, all while trying to soak in every last social event with friends before going separate ways. Amidst the excitement and uncertainty, it is important for students to take a moment to reflect on everything they have accomplished. TS-South had the privilege of interviewing two outstanding students within the program to learn more about their journeys—where they’re headed, the accomplishments they’ve achieved, and what they’re most excited for in the future.

Joshua is a dedicated and driven senior who has been an integral part of the soccer team since his sophomore year. Along with his athletic achievements, he is also actively involved in Young Life, where he has built lasting friendships and leadership skills.

After graduation, he plans to pursue a career in engineering or aviation, starting at a community college with the goal of transferring to a four-year university.

Thanks to his hard work and commitment, he earned a soccer scholarship at Allen Community College to continue his education. His advice to underclassmen is to stay focused in their early years—missing classes can have long-lasting consequences. Joshua is excited for the future and determined to achieve success in whichever path he takes.

Danny is a hardworking and determined senior who found his passion for aviation after initially missing out on a welding program at WSU Tech. With the help of his counselor, he enrolled in the aviation program in his senior year, where he earned an impressive 10 certifications.

His dedication paid off when Textron, a renowned aviation company in Wichita, offered him a paid internship, allowing him to gain real-world experience while working four hours a day during the school year. After graduation, Danny hopes to continue at Textron and pursue further education, with the goal of having the company help fund his journey toward a four-year degree. His advice to underclassmen is to utilize available resources, especially school counselors—who are there to help guide students toward success. Looking ahead, one of his dreams is to eventually build an aircraft, and he's excited to continue working toward that goal.

The advice from these seniors is a reminder that high school is a journey of growth, balance, and learning from both successes and setbacks. To all the underclassmen: embrace every opportunity, seek support when needed, and remember that each step is a movement toward the ultimate goal.

Student Engagement

Vivian Pham-Chanthivong, Assistant Director/Statistician



In today's educational landscape, student engagement is more crucial than ever. Engaged students are more likely to retain information, participate in class, and develop critical thinking skills that will serve them well in the future.

This semester began strongly with an increase of participation from program participants. TSS connected students to PowerPrep's ACT Test Prep workshop, Kansas Hispanic Education and Development Foundation (KHEDF) scholarship resources, and South High's Winter Homecoming Spirit Week.



Fifteen South High juniors attended the ACT test prep workshop on WSU's campus facilitated by PowerPrep.

They obtained many test-taking strategies to prepare for the USD 259's district-wide ACT test on February 26. Program Educational Advisor (PEA) Kathy Nguyen connected senior participants to Julian from KHEDF to present exclusive scholarships through their foundation. Julian provided great insights preparing students for scholarship information and tips to prepare for postsecondary education. Lastly, Assistant Director/Statistician Vivian Pham-Chanthivong and PEA Nguyen participated in South High's spirit week which included cultural attire day.



Julian, Kansas Hispanic Education and Development Foundation (KHEDF)



Mrs. Rivera, senior AVID teacher, one of TSS's biggest supporters



Winter Homecoming Spirit Week



Juniors: Genesis & Renad

SEP: Summer Enrichment

Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist



Students who are transitioning from middle school to high school next year are encouraged to join the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program (SEP).

The Summer Enrichment Program offers the opportunity to enrich students' skills in math, English, computer technology, science, language arts, and financial literacy. In addition, students can participate in campus visits to learn more about college life, admissions requirements, housing and financial aid.

Inspirational speakers, a talent showcase, community service opportunities, and social, emotional, learning (SEL) events are planned, as well as an overnight College Road Trip and talent showcase.

The Summer Enrichment Program begins May 27 and ends July 2. Classes are held Monday through Friday from 7:30am-2:15pm. A healthy breakfast is provided, along with snacks and lunch. Applications are available at www.wichita.edu/tss.

Program Objective Results for 2023-2024

Vivian Pham-Chanthivong, Assistant Director/Statistician

For the TSS grant to be funded by the Department of Education, the program must meet program objectives each year. For the 2023-2024 grant year, all program objectives exceeded the minimum requirements resulting in the maximum program prior experience points being awarded. Prior experience points significantly increase the chance to be refunded in the future. Here are the results that were achieved for the 2023-2024 grant year.

100% of non-senior participants served each project year will complete the current academic year and continue in school for the next academic year, at the next grade level. **Objective: 99%**

100% of seniors served during the project year will graduate during the project year with a regular secondary school diploma within the standard number of years. **Objective: 90%**

50% of seniors served during the project year will complete a rigorous secondary school program and will graduate during project year with a regular secondary school diploma within the standard number of years. **Objective: 20%**

73% of participants, who graduated with a regular secondary school diploma, during the project year, will enroll in an institution of higher education by the fall term immediately following high school graduation or will have received notification, by the fall term immediately following high school, from an institution of higher education, of acceptance but deferred enrollment until the next academic term (e.g. spring term). **Objective: 55%**

*Congrats
Graduates!*



Calendar

March

- 8 SAT test administration
- 13 Wichita State University campus visit
- 14-21 No school (Spring Break)
- 26 Cowley CC campus visit



April

- 1 April Fools' Day
- 4 Beetlejuice Music Theater Production
- 4-5 First Generation Student Leadership Experience, FL
- 5 ACT test administration
- 8 SAT registration deadline; Butler campus visit
- 10-12 TRIO Student Access & Success Conference, NC
- 18 SAT registration deadline
- 18 Conference Release Day (No school)
- 20 Easter Sunday
- 21 In-service Day (No school)
- 24 University of Oklahoma campus visit
- 27 Cher Music Theater Production

May

- 3 SAT registration deadline
- 9 ACT registration deadline
- 11 Mother's Day
- 17 SEP Parent Meeting
- 22 SAT registration deadline
- 22 Last day of school
- 26 Memorial Day
- 27 Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) begins



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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the TRIO Talent Search-South Program is to identify, encourage and assist low income and potential first generation college students to complete a secondary education, enroll in post-secondary education, and complete a post-secondary program.



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Program Educational Advisor,
Kathy Nguyen

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Sharon K. Robertson

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