

TSS NEWS

FALL 2025

Written By : Larry Ramos

Welcome Back Students!

What an exciting time for the students as they begin another school year. Hopefully, students had a blast this summer and are ready to get back to work. The staff at Talent Search-South is super excited for the school year and looks forward to seeing returning students as well as meeting all the new ones who will join the program in the coming weeks.



Executive Director's Message

This year marks the final year of the current grant cycle. Later this year, Wichita State will be required to reapply to the U.S. Department of Education to fund the program for another five years. The program is in great shape because it met all of the mandatory objectives for each grant year. To sustain the progress and momentum that has been established since the program's inception, the staff will be working hard to introduce the program to new instructional staff at South and Truesdell. Through these connections, the program hopes to reach even more students so that they may experience the benefits that other students have received over the past four years.



TRIO
WORKS
Talent Search

Written By: Vivian Pham-Chanthivong,
Assistant Director/Statistician

Student Success Tips for High School Freshmen and Sophomores

Starting high school can feel overwhelming, but a few key habits can set students up for success. Stay organized by using a planner to track assignments, tests, and activities. Don't be afraid to ask questions or seek help from teachers—they're there for support. Get involved in clubs or sports to make friends and build a strong school community. Manage time wisely, balancing schoolwork with rest and hobbies. Most importantly, be confident and keep a positive attitude—high school is a time to grow, learn, and discover one's self.



Freshman and Sophomore Year: Thrive With A Few Practical Tips

- Stay on top of homework – Don't let assignments pile up.
- Develop good study habits early, like reviewing notes regularly instead of cramming.
- Attend class consistently and participate—it helps to stay engaged and understand the material better.
- Make friends with positive, motivated people who encourage the best self.
- Set goals each semester, both academically and personally, to stay focused and motivated.
- Use school resources like tutoring centers, libraries, or counseling services.
- Limit distractions, especially phone and social media during study time.
- Practice self-care — Get enough sleep, eat well, and make time to relax.

Written By: Kathy Nguyen,
Program Educational Advisor

Back to School!

Summer has flown by in the blink of an eye, but the start of a school year brings excitement to incoming juniors and seniors. These are the most pivotal years of their high school journey as they are narrowing down college choices, exploring different career paths, and simply just enjoying the last few years of their high school career. With all the new opportunities ahead, comes increased responsibilities. Talent Search can help guide them in the year focused on growth and preparation for what comes next.

Whether the student is a junior or senior, this school year is an opportunity to grow, achieve, and create lasting memories.



Junior Year

Junior year is all about preparation and exploration. Start by making sure class schedules include classes needed for graduation and add rigorous courses that will strengthen college or career applications. Start by making an appointment with the school counselor and create a resume. See a Talent Search-South advisor for help. Lastly, begin researching colleges, trade schools, or training programs, and keep track of upcoming test dates for the ACT. Most importantly, stay organized! Keep a planner or digital calendar handy to balance activities, schoolwork, and most importantly, self-time.



Senior Year

For seniors, this year is all about putting plans into action. Finalize the post-graduation path by narrowing down colleges, trade schools, or other post-secondary options. Be sure to keep track of important deadlines for applications, scholarships, and financial aid. Schedule an appointment with a counselor early on to make sure that all graduation requirements are met. Consider adding recent achievements and extra curriculars to the resume. Staying focused is important during this time, but so is making sure students enjoy the final year of high school and all the traditions senior year has to offer.



Be sure to stay organized, stay motivated, and make the most of every moment.

Written By: Vivian Pham-Chanthivong,
Assistant Director/Statistician

Campus Visits Fall 2025

Be sure to check the TSS website and Facebook page for updates on the campus visit schedule. Talent Search-South offers current high school participants opportunities throughout the school year to participate in campus visits to various colleges and universities across the region. Virtual tours, college catalogs, and brochures provide a limited view of college campuses. In-person visits provide an opportunity to get a feel for the campus culture, interact with current students and faculty, ask questions, and learn more about class sizes, admissions requirements, housing, and financial aid options. It also allows students to gain insight on clubs and organizations for campus involvement. Remember, spots are limited for each trip. Please check the website at www.wichita.edu/tss for updates. The required permission form must be completed and can be found on the website or provided by program staff. For more information, contact vivian.pham@wichita.edu or 316-978-3561.



To sign up for a campus tour, complete the Campus Visit Permission and Consent Form for 2024-2025 online at www.wichita.edu/tss.



Fall 2025 Campus Visit Schedule

WSU Tech (NCAT & South) & NICHE
Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Kansas State University (KSU)
Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Newman University
Tuesday, November 4, 2025

University of Kansas (KU)
Wednesday, November 12, 2025

**Dates and sites are subject to change*



Spring 2026 Campus Visit Schedule

Wichita State University (WSU)
Thursday, March 12, 2026

Cowley Community College
Thursday, March 26, 2026

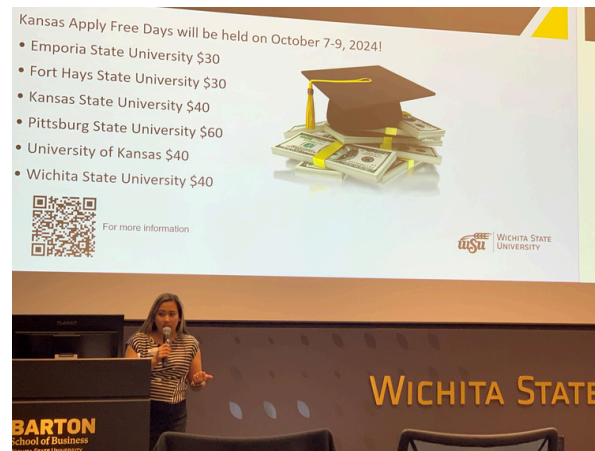
Butler Community College
Thursday, April 9, 2026

McPherson College
Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Written By: Sharon K. Robertson,
Administrative Specialist

College Jump Start

Any student considering college should take advantage of College Jump Start (CJS). This annual event provides information to students and their parents or guardians on the Talent Search Program and the services it has to offer: Connections to tutoring, homework assistance, financial literacy (FAFSA, scholarship newsletters, and searches), assistance with course selection, college admission applications, fee waivers, campus visits, and more. It also reviews information on qualified admissions and rigorous curriculum requirements, as well as things to consider when applying for postsecondary education, such as class size, admissions requirements, fee waivers, total cost, and how ACT and GPA scores influence college admission. Mentoring and career exploration support are also covered. Contact vivian.pham@wichita.edu for more information.



*Check out the resources at
www.wichita.edu/tss*

Calendar

September

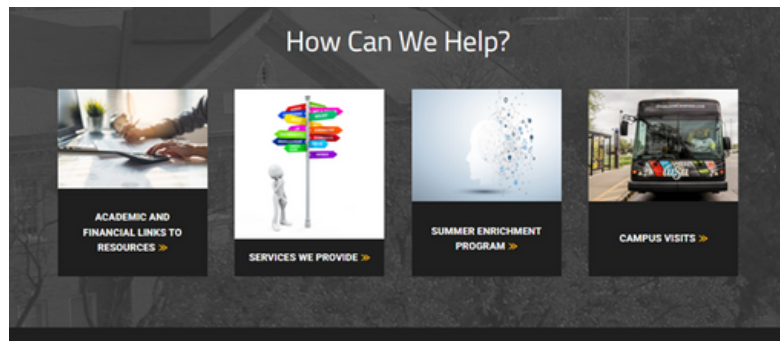
- 1 Labor Day, No School
- 2 No School
- 6 ACT Test Date
- 12 ACT Registration Deadline
- 13 SAT Test Date
- 17 College Jump Start
- 19 SAT Registration Deadline

October

- 4 SAT Test
- 6-8 Kansas Apply Free Days
- 8 WSU Tech (NCAT & South) & NICHE Culinary School Campus Visit
- 14-17 No School
- 15 KSU Campus Visit
- 18 ACT Test Date
- 31 Halloween

November

- 4 Newman/Friends Campus Visit
- 7 ACT Registration Deadline
- 8 SAT Test
- 10 No School
- 11 Veteran's Day, No School
- 12 KU Campus Visit
- 21 SAT Registration Deadline
- 26-28 No School, Fall Recess
- 28 Thanksgiving



Written By: Sharon K. Robertson,
Administrative Specialist

TSS Social Media

The Talent Search-South website is a resource for students to connect with ACT and test prep tools, CashCourse free money guide, federal student aid, the Occupational Outlook Handbook for career exploration, and more. Other links include Khan Academy learning resources, College Greenlight for scholarship searches, Center for Student Opportunity (I'm First) which supports first generation students, and the High School Financial Planning Program that helps students to develop personal finance skills. Other assistance includes information on TSS campus tours, the summer program, newsletters, and connections to tutoring. Visit www.wichita.edu/tss to like and access the Facebook page.

TRIO Talent Search-South

STAFF (Clockwise):

Executive Director,
Larry Ramos

Assistant Director/Statistician,
Vivian Pham-Chanthivong

Program Educational Advisor,
Kathy Nguyen

Administrative Specialist,
Sharon K. Robertson



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.

Read More on our website

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Funding

Both TRIO Talent Search programs are 100% federally funded by the Department of Education and are hosted by WSU. Funds for 2024-2025 are \$672,135 for TS and \$288,470 for TSS.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

- Wichita State University (WSU) does not discriminate in its employment practices, or in its educational programs or activities on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a veteran. WSU also prohibits retaliation against any person making a complaint of discrimination or against any person involved or participating in the investigation of any such allegation. Sexual misconduct, relationship violence, and stalking are forms of sex discrimination and are prohibited under Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, other federal law, and WSU policy.
- WSU will not discharge or in any other manner discriminate against employees or applicants because they have inquired about, discussed, or disclosed their own pay or the pay of another employee or applicant. However, employees who have access to the compensation information of other employees or applicants as a part of their essential job functions cannot disclose the pay of other employees or applicants to individuals who do not otherwise have access to compensation information, unless the disclosure is:
 - In response to a formal complaint or charge;
 - In furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing or action, including an investigation conducted by the University; or;
 - Consistent with the University's legal duty to furnish the information.