



TS EXPRESS

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021 | VOL 20 | ISSUE 1

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



TRiO
TALENT SEARCH

INSIDE

Student Spotlight: Inocente	2
High School Course Selection	2
New Academic Advisor	3
More Exciting Changes	3
Program Objectives Five-Year Trend	4
Exploring Interests	5
Calendar Events	6

The new school year is flying by as the holiday season approaches. Students need to focus on remaining healthy, both mentally and physically – taking breaks for their mental health and making physical activity a daily part of their routine. They also need to do their very best in every class daily.

For seniors, this is the time to begin thinking about the next step. What will happen after graduation? Students should have a plan and work toward that plan. If college is the next step, it is time to apply to schools and complete the FAFSA. If seniors have difficulty performing these important tasks, they can contact their Talent Search advisor or talk to a teacher or the College and Career Coordinator (CCC). These individuals are dedicated to student success and want to be of service so utilize these resources.

Best wishes for a successful school year!

Student Spotlight: Inocente

- Sara Baltazar, Program Educational Advisor/Financial Literacy Coordinator



Inocente is a sophomore attending Wichita North High School. Inocente wants to become a mechanical engineer or an automotive mechanic. He recently started a new job so that he can save money for college. Inocente is an active participant with his church's food pantry, a team member of a local soccer team, and has been a participant of TRIO Talent Search for three years.



High School Course Selection

- Stephanie Haynes, Middle School Director

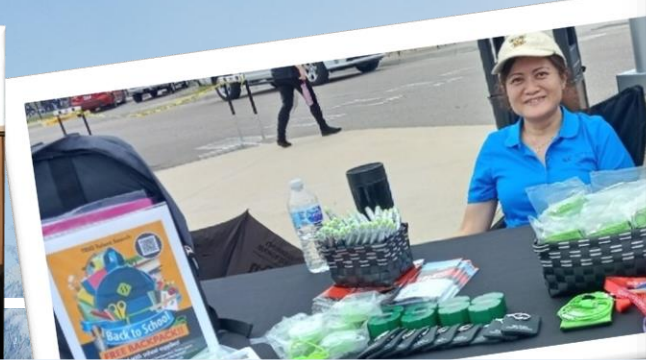
For eighth graders, it will soon be time to select courses for high school. They will need to choose classes that prepare them for the next level, which is college. Students need to keep in mind, one way to get into college is to meet the qualified admissions requirements. The qualified admissions for Emporia State, Pittsburg State, Wichita State, and Fort Hays State universities require students to have an ACT score of at least 21, an SAT score of 1060, or a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.25 or higher. However, some universities have additional requirements. For example, Kansas State University requires a GPA of 3.25 or higher, while the University of Kansas requires students who do not meet the GPA requirements to have an ACT score of 24, SAT of 1160, and cumulative GPA of 3.0.

Another way to get into one of the six state universities is to complete the Kansas Scholars Curriculum. Students are required to take the following courses: Four units of English; four units of math to include algebra, geometry, algebra II and an advanced math course (such as analytic geometry, trigonometry or calculus); four units of science to include biology, chemistry, and physics; three units in social science; and four units of a foreign language (two years of the same language).

The universities want all students to take the right courses in high school and requires them to have a good GPA. If help is needed, seek aid from a Talent Search counselor or the high school counselor. Best of luck!

New Academic Advisor

- **Thip Phichith, Program Educational Advisor/ACT/SAT Coordinator**



Thip Phichith is the newest member of the TRIO Talent Search team at Wichita State University. Phichith graduated with a degree in sociology and a minor in business administration from Wichita State in 2005. She joined TRIO Talent Search as the ACT/SAT Coordinator-Program Educational Advisor in September 2021. Prior to working with TRIO Talent Search, she was an academic advisor for the WSU Student Support Services Program, which serves students on the college level. Phichith currently serves students at Southeast High School and Curtis Middle School. She also works with walk-in students from Heights and non-USD 259 schools (Derby, Maize, etc). Aside from work, Phichith enjoys spending time with her two children and taking them to swimming and gymnastics classes. She also enjoys eating good food, reading, exercising, and traveling. Her favorite foods are Mexican, Thai and Laotian.

More Exciting Changes!

- **Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist**

TRIO Talent Search is proud to announce that a second grant has been funded: TRIO Talent Search-South (TSS). The new program will serve students from Truesdell Middle School and South High school. Beginning in January 2022, students will have the opportunity to take advantage of campus visits, field trips, museum visits, theatre productions, cultural events, and more. TSS offers free tutoring services, ACT/SAT prep, financial literacy and FAFSA assistance, as well as mentoring and college preparation. TSS counselors are ready to serve students! Refer Truesdell and South High students to TRIO Talent Search South, 316.978.3560.



Program Objectives Five-Year Trend

- Mani Souriya, Associate Director/Statistician

Every year, the TRIO Talent Search program submits the Annual Performance Report to the Department of Education that includes the program's measurable objectives and goals: Secondary School Persistence; Secondary School Graduation, Secondary School Graduation with Rigorous Program of Study, Postsecondary Education Enrollment, and Postsecondary Attainment.

Program Objectives 2020-2021	Goal	Achieved
Secondary School Persistence	95%	100%
Secondary School Graduation	80%	96%
Secondary School Graduation with rigorous program of study	25%	19%
Postsecondary Education Enrollment	65%	42%
Postsecondary Attainment (Reporting on Cohort 2014-2015)	45%	46%

To examine on a five-year trend, data collection on program objectives from year 2016-2021 was conducted. The five-year trend appears to demonstrate that secondary school persistence and secondary school graduation have no significant changes from 2016-2021. The rigorous program of study was similarly consistent but gradually decreases after year 2018. The postsecondary education enrollment has significantly decreased during the 2019-2020 and the subsequent year. The postsecondary attainment data was not measured until 2017-2018 as there is a zero value on the chart for the respective year and objective. There were no significant changes from 2016-2021. Based on the trend shown below, the COVID-19 pandemic likely affected the students' decision on enrolling in postsecondary education. National data has shown a significant drop in postsecondary enrollment over the past two years, as reported by the National Student Clearinghouse (2021).



Interest Exploration

- Myron Richard, Program Educational Advisor/Mentoring and Career Coordinator



High school is a great time to start planning for a future career. Most likely, people have asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” High school is the perfect time to start exploring the myriad of choices. Sitting down with a parent, teacher, counselor, or even a TRIO Talent Search advisor to discuss possible career options can help narrow down the choices.

Here are ten things to consider when thinking about potential educational and career paths:

1. Take time to think about ideal careers
2. Take challenging courses in high school without becoming overwhelmed
3. Work, volunteer, or otherwise gain experience in the field of interest
4. Get as much education as possible
5. Talk with as many adults as possible about careers and colleges
6. Remember that everyone must follow their own path in life
7. People change. Do not feel locked into one particular college or career right now
8. Don't let anyone else take control of the dream and ambition
9. It is never too early nor too late to get organized and begin making plans
10. Never stop learning: read, grow, and expand the mind



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the TRIO Talent Search 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 postsecondary program.

TRIO Talent Search

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Notice of Funding:

TRIO Talent Search is 100% funded by the United States Department of Education and is hosted by WSU. Funding for 2021-2022 is \$646,284.

Calendar Events

December 2021

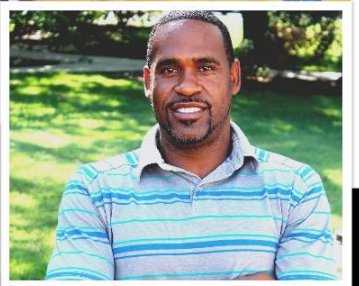
12/03 | Hutchinson Campus Visit
12/04 | SAT Test
12/11 | ACT Test
12/17-1/04 | USD 259 Winter Recess (NO SCHOOL)
12/25 | Christmas Day
12/31 | New Year's Eve

January 2021

1/05 | USD 259 Reopens
1/07 | ACT Registration Deadline
1/17 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (NO SCHOOL)

February 2021

2/11 | SAT Registration Deadline
2/12 | ACT Test
2/14 | Valentine's Day
2/18 | District Inservice Day (NO SCHOOL)
2/21 | President's Day (NO SCHOOL)
2/25 | ACT Registration Deadline



We Are Here to Serve You Students!

Program Staff

Clockwise: Mani Souriya, Associate Director/Statistician; **Stephanie Haynes**, Middle School Director; **Thip Phichith**, Program Educational Advisor/ACT-SAT Coordinator; **Myron Richard**, Program Educational Advisor/Mentoring-Career Coordinator; **Sharon K. Robertson**, Senior Administrative Assistant; **Sara Baltazar**, Program Educational Advisor/Financial Literacy Coordinator; and **Larry Ramos**, Program Director