



TS EXPRESS

NEWSLETTER

Volume 23, Issue 2

Summer 2025

Director's Message



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY
TRIO Programs
Talent Search

Congratulations to the Talent Search graduates and eighth graders who are moving on to high school next year. As students reflect on their time in middle school or high school, they will likely ponder what the next year will be like. Students can rest easy knowing that it will be what they make of it, and it starts this summer.

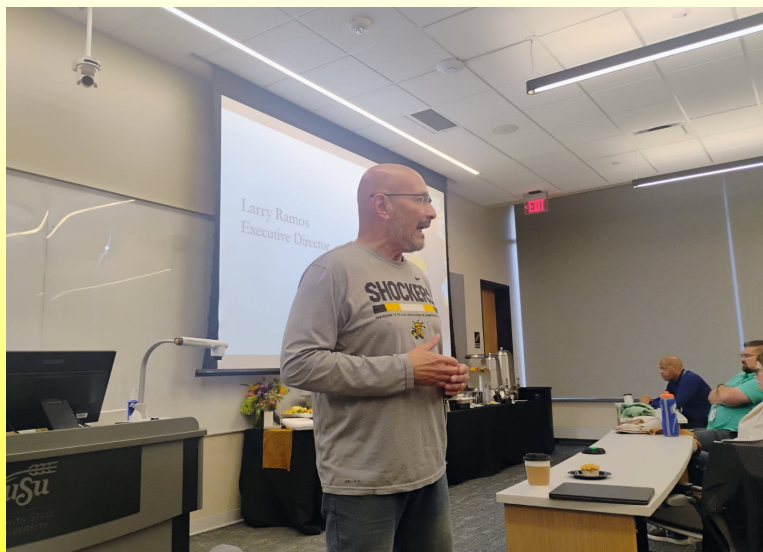
Middle School Director Stephanie Haynes provides some excellent suggestions to stem the inevitable effects of “summer melt.” Summer melt refers to the students’ motivation for higher education “melting” away during the summer.

The summer is a good time to hone one’s skills or to read a book. Visit the public library or the nearest Little Free Library and spend quality time on reading for pleasure or learning a new skill. The Little Free Library App can help find books to take or leave within a certain area. For more information, visit <https://www.wichitalibrary.org/Services/Pages/little-free-libraries.aspx>.

By the time this newsletter is published, the program will have already begun the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program. These students spend part of summer working on their academic skills to ward off summer melt.

They will also be visiting other college campuses and exploring various programs of study and contemplating what careers spark their interest.

Kudos to these students who are utilizing the summer to improve their skills. Let’s celebrate the end of another year and enjoy the summer vacation!



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Student Spotlight: Ismail

- - Mani Souriya, Associate Director/Statistician

Ismail has been involved in the TRIO Talent Search program since the 2019-2020 academic year, beginning as a 7th grader at Allison Middle School and continued through his senior year at East High as an International Baccalaureate student.

Throughout his Talent Search journey, Ismail engaged in numerous activities, including campus visits, National TRIO Day, volunteering at the Kansas Food Bank, and participating in ACT Prep Workshops.

In addition to his involvement in Talent Search, he has taken on leadership roles in his high school, serving on the Student Council and attending the Student Ambassador Society Leadership Conference.

A passionate poet, Ismail competed in the 2025 Poetry Out Loud competition, where he was one of 55 students out of 157,000 nationwide to advance to the national finals in Washington, D.C. Although he did not reach the national championship, he felt immense pride in representing Kansas. He also connected with peers from across the country while at the conference.

Ismail is grateful for the support of his family, friends, and the TRIO Talent Search staff who have supported him throughout his education.



He graduated in May and plans to major in criminal justice at Wichita State University, with aspirations to transfer to the University of Kansas School of Law to pursue a career as a criminal defense attorney.



YEA!



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4 THE SUMMER

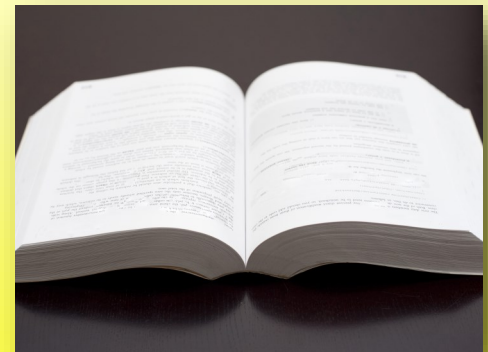
-- Stephanie Haynes, Middle School Director

Even though school is out, it is important to keep the brain working, so that there is no summer learning loss. This happens to students' academic skills and knowledge over the course of summer vacation when they have lengthy breaks in the school year, such as the U.S. and Canada.

When students return to school after the summer break, teachers need to re-teach previously taught material. The learning loss may result in achievement gaps that widen each year for students.

Here are ways to prevent summer learning loss:

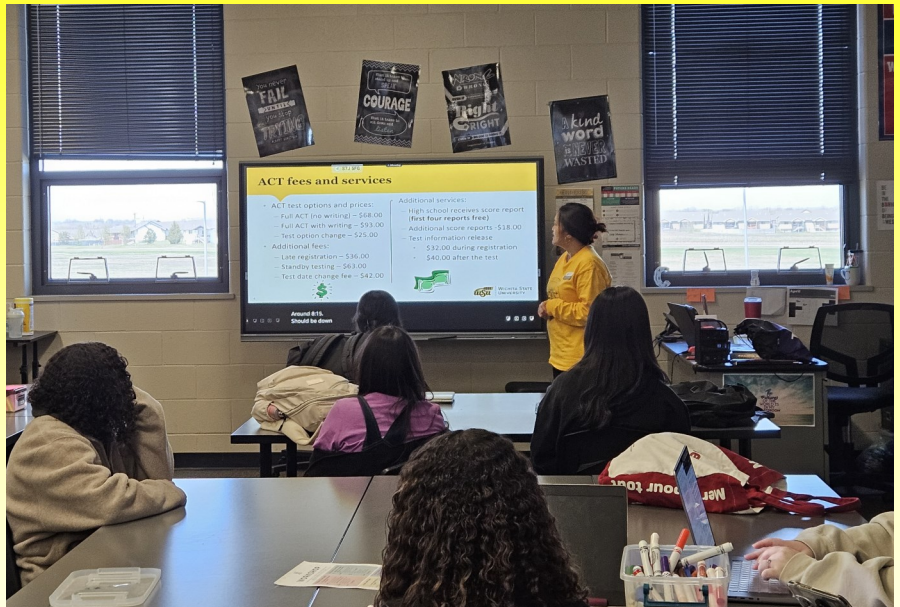
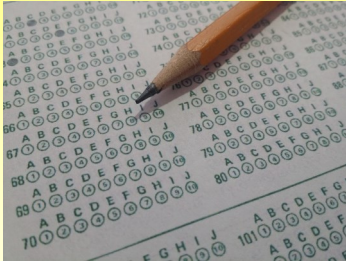
- ◆ Read a book 15-20 minutes a day.
- ◆ Go to the library.
- ◆ Practice math skills using Khan Academy (khanacademy.org).
- ◆ Create a routine for learning even during summer. This can help students stay on track and remain motivated to learn.
- ◆ Make time for learning- short periods of dedicated learning can make a difference.
- ◆ Use Technology – find educational apps, games, and quizzes.
- ◆ Explore hobbies of interest.
- ◆ Write or journal.
- ◆ Try cooking from recipes - this helps with math and reading.
- ◆ Explore new things.



Sources: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org) and [https:// files.eric.ed.gov](https://files.eric.ed.gov).

ACT MATH WORKSHOP

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



Talent Search offers informational sessions and ACT Math prep workshops for high school students. The ACT Math workshop is conducted by Talent Search in collaboration with Tinka Davis, WSU associate educator for Mathematics and Statistics. The cost is FREE to all TRIO Talent Search participants and lunch is provided.

The ACT Math workshop is being planned for the fall. Students will be notified later in the year on the exact date, time, and place. Talent Search students will need to scan a QR code from the flyer sent via REMIND messaging. Students will need to bring an ACT approved calculator, pencil, and water/drink. Lunch will be provided for all who attend.

The information provided will not only be relevant to the ACT test but useful for other tests as well. The ACT math prep workshop is especially beneficial for juniors who will be required to take the USD 259 district-wide ACT in February 2026. ACT waivers are available to Talent Search participants. Request a waiver from a TS advisor.

Stay tuned to the website and Facebook at <http://www.wichita.edu/talentsearch>.

For more information on the ACT math workshop, visit <http://act-math-prep-workshop.my.canva.site/>.

Fee Waiver Eligibility Requirements

- TRIO Talent Search can provide up to **four** fee waivers for students that are eligible:
 - Currently enrolled in high school in 11th or 12th grade
 - Meet one or more of the indicators of economic need listed below:
 - Enrolled in a **federal free or reduced-price lunch** program at school, based on US Department of Agriculture (USDA) income levels
 - Resides in a foster home, is a ward of the state, or is homeless
 - Family receives low-income public assistance or lives in federally subsidized public housing.



CLASS OF 2025

-- Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist



The Talent Search staff is proud of the Class of 2025! The staff wishes them all the best in their future endeavors and hope that they will keep striving for excellence and the rich benefits of a higher education. Talent Search graduates are the testament that TRIO works! For those pursuing college, remember to ask if the campus has a TRIO Student Support Services (baccalaureate) , Communications Upward Bound, or McNair Scholars Program (doctorate) . Adults can find assistance with skills to prepare for college, interest assessments, or career advice/exploration by seeking the TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers Program. Remember, TRIO is here to help throughout the educational journey.



Congrats grads!



2020 I-95 + 005 + 006





2025



2025-2026



NEW LOCATION

-- Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist

Grace Wilkie Annex 158



TRIO Talent Search Programs have moved from Brennan Hall to Grace Wilkie Annex. Staff can still be reached at their direct numbers and email addresses but their office locations have changed. Come by and check out the new offices on the WSU main campus.

- ♦ Larry Ramos—Room 153, Ext. 6753
- ♦ Emily Roets-Estevez—Room 155, Ext. 6755
- ♦ Mani Souriya—Room 156, Ext. 6757
- ♦ Thip Phichith—Room 157, Ext. 6754
- ♦ Sharon Robertson—Room 158, Ext. 6844
- ♦ Stephanie Haynes—Room 158B, Ext. 6758
- ♦ Vivian Pham—Room 158C, Ext. 3561
- ♦ Kathy Nguyen—Room 158D, Ext. 3571



NEW PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL ADVISOR

-- Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist

On June 9, 2025, Aunisti Swan joins the TRIO Talent Search Program staff. Swan graduated from Wichita State with a bachelor of arts degree in social work with a minor in psychology and university honors. She is also a graduate of the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program named after NASA astronaut and Challenger Space Shuttle crew-member, the late Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D.

Swan is a Talent Search alum who participated throughout middle school and high school. She was active in the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program and won a Give Something Back Scholarship. She will serve as the program educational advisor-mentoring and career coordinator for students at Hamilton Middle School and West High School.



Now Hiring Tutors

-- Sharon K. Robertson, Administrative Specialist

Talent Search is looking for capable WSU students who are interested in tutoring during the academic year. Eligibility requirements include:



- Currently enrolled as a WSU student with class schedule
- Cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher
- Valid driver's license and reliable transportation
- Good verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to use Microsoft Word, Excel, and Access



Wichita State University
1845 Fairmount Street, Campus Box 96
Wichita, KS 67260-0096
Phone: (316) 978-3127
Fax: (316) 978-3527

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[https://www.wichita.edu/
talentsearch](https://www.wichita.edu/talentsearch)



PROGRAM STAFF

Clockwise: Larry Ramos, Executive Director; **Mani Souriya**, Associate Director/Statistician; **Thip Phichith**, Program Educational Advisor/ACT-SAT Coordinator; **Emily Roets-Estevez**, Program Educational Advisor/Financial Literacy Coordinator; **Stephanie Haynes**, Middle School Director; and **Sharon K. Robertson**, Administrative Specialist

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.

EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE

- 02-30:** Summer Enrichment Program (SEP)
- 06:** ACT Registration Deadline;
ACT Math Prep Workshop
- 07:** SAT Test Administration
- 14:** ACT Test Administration
- 15:** Father's Day
- 26:** SEP Talent Showcase and Recognition
- 27:** 5th-7th Grade SEP College Road Trip
- 29:** 8th Grade SEP College Road Trip

JULY

- 01-02:** 8th Grade SEP College Road Trip
- 02:** SEP Ends
- 04:** Independence Day Holiday
- 12:** ACT Test

AUGUST

- 14:** First Day of School (USD 259)

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 (40 years or older), 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. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding WSU's non-discrimination policies: the Associate Vice President and University Title IX Coordinator (Telephone: (316) 978-3186), Office of Civil Rights, Title IX & ADA Compliance. For inquiries, please call or visit the Office of Civil Rights, Title IX & ADA Compliance at (316) 978-3186, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260, Lindquist Hall. **Notice of Funding:** TRIO Talent Search-South is 100% funded by the United States Department of Education and is hosted by WSU. Funding for 2024-2025 is \$ \$288,470.