

## Executive Director's Message

**LARRY RAMOS**

There have been a number of changes since the spring semester. However, on behalf of all the Talent Search staff, welcome to another great school year! What an exciting time. Students have a chance to start fresh with their academics. There are a lot of great tips in this newsletter on how students can get started on the right foot and how to stay ahead of the game. Best wishes on making 2025-2026 a successful year!

Now on to the big news. Talent Search is in its final year of funding. However, with a lot of luck and positive vibes being sent this way, Wichita State will do everything in its power to make sure this program continues well into the future. In spite of all the uncertainties surrounding federal funding, the good people responsible for writing the next grant are extremely confident that Talent Search will be operational over the next several years.

Unfortunately, a key individual will not be around to see the grant writing process through to the end. It is tough to say farewell to Deltha Q. Colvin, associate vice president for special programs, who retired after a stellar career at WSU. She was a true champion for WSU and a pioneer for TRIO programs here and across the nation. She will be missed but her legacy will live on.

Congratulations, Ms. Colvin!



In this newsletter  
you can expect:

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Student  
Spotlight: Gisel

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Building You

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ACT &  
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Campus Visits  
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# Student Spotlight: Gisel

Stephanie Haynes, Middle School Director

Stephanie Haynes first had the distinct pleasure of meeting Gisel at Brooks Center for STEM and Arts Magnet Middle School. Haynes worked with Gisel throughout the academic school year preparing her for high school. This year, for the first time, Gisel decided to participate in the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP). During the talent showcase, she performed "Por Que Fui Enamorarme de Ti." The audience loved it! Gisel's stage presence, powerful voice, and emotional delivery was like watching a professional performance, compelling a standing ovation from the audience.

Now 14 years old, Gisel will be a freshman at Southeast High School. Gisel is always polite, kind, and a true pleasure to be around. She dreams of going to Juilliard to major in music, but wouldn't mind going to a local university either. Music has always been a priority and passion. It gets her heart racing and fills her mind throughout the day. From a young age, Gisel practiced singing for fun and increased her skills during her free time, learning the songs of Latin artists that her dad introduced her to while singing at family events.



This year, Gisel's former vocal coach and her family came back into Gisel's life. She taught Gisel to add piano and guitar to songs that she has written. With the support of her coach, Gisel has finished her songs and will soon perform them at her first gigs. Gisel says, "I learned that music has no rules — it's challenging but freeing and rewarding. I hope my songs can help others understand their feelings and creative journeys. That would be an honor."

Talent Search believes in the dreams of its students and wishes Gisel all the best as she begins high school.



**"THERE WILL BE OBSTACLES.  
THERE WILL BE DOUBTERS.  
THERE WILL BE MISTAKES.  
BUT WITH HARD WORK,  
THERE ARE NO LIMITS."**

**- MICHAEL PHELPS**

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# Building You: 7 Habits That Shape a Successful Teen

Aunisti Swan, PEA-Mentoring and Career Coordinator

This month, Talent Search is highlighting a book that could seriously elevate student's lives, the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey. These seven habits are tools that can help students lead themselves, handle school and life pressures, build healthy relationships, and make smart choices, key aspects assisting students in furthering personal development, as it relates to both personal and professional endeavors.



## The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens:

1. Be Proactive – Don't wait, be responsible and take action.
2. Begin with the End in Mind – Set clear goals.
3. Put First Things First – Prioritize what matters most and manage time.
4. Think Win-Win – Everyone can succeed. Don't compete, collaborate.
5. Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood – Listen before speaking.
6. Synergize – Teamwork makes the dream work.
7. Sharpen the Saw – Take care of the body, mind, and soul.

## Mentor's Challenge:

This week, pick one habit and practice it. Maybe it's Habit #1: Be Proactive – Instead of waiting to be told to study for an upcoming exam, get a jump on it, study early to ace it!

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# Scholarship Search Tips

Emily Roets-Estevez, PEA-Financial Literacy Coordinator

While many scholarship competitions are only open to high school seniors, there are some that students of all grades and ages can apply for. In addition to maintaining good grades and taking rigorous classes, here are a few tips that students can use to prepare strong scholarship applications and increase their odds of winning free money for college.



## Search from Local Resources

Many local businesses and nonprofit organizations have annual scholarship competitions that are only open to students in the Wichita area, such as Assistance League of Wichita, Kansas Hispanic Education and Development Foundation, Wichita Foundation, United Way of the Plains, and more. Big online scholarship databases like Niche, Fastweb, and Going Merry list thousands of scholarships, but have nearly one million students across the U.S. using their website annually. While students can find a greater quantity of scholarships on these websites, their odds of winning are lower since more students are applying, and the selection criteria is much broader. To increase the odds of winning, students should search for scholarships that are only open to their specific demographics, like their college major, a sport or extracurricular activity they participate in, or their ethnicity or gender. The more specific the scholarship, the fewer students can apply and the greater the chances of winning.



## Write A Personal Essay

Most scholarships require students to submit a personal essay that describes their college and career plans, as well as their inspirations and any important life events that have impacted their journey. Another tip is to write one personal essay and edit it to fit the specific requirements of each scholarship. This saves students from having to write a new essay from scratch each time they apply. Additionally, students should track all their volunteer hours, extracurricular activities, and leadership positions on an activity chart and update it regularly. This way, they can copy and paste the information on a scholarship application.



## Get Letters of Recommendation

In addition to these tips, students can ask a few teachers, coaches, and mentors they have a strong relationship with to write a letter of recommendation before they even apply to a scholarship. Just like a personal essay, many letters of recommendation can be edited and reused for several scholarships, saving both the recommender and the student time. Make sure to request a letter at least two weeks in advance so the recommender has enough time to write the best letter possible. The person writing the letter may ask for a copy of the student's resume or activity chart and the grading criteria for the specific scholarship to be able to include as much relevant information as possible. Finally, be sure to apply for as many scholarships as possible. A student will not win every scholarship, but they can only win if they apply.

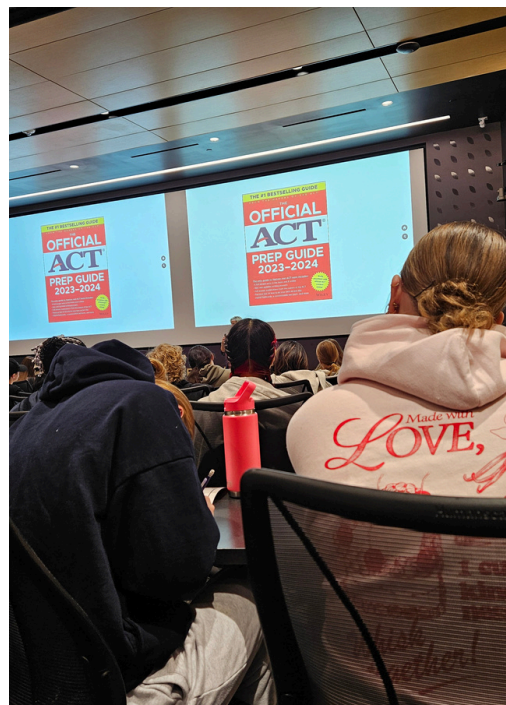
# ACT

Thip Phichith, PEA-ACT/SAT Coordinator

## Power Prep Workshops

Talent Search offers informational sessions and ACT prep workshops for high school students. The ACT workshop is offered by Talent Search in concert with Power Prep. The cost is normally \$78 per student but TRIO Talent Search participants are able to attend the workshop for FREE and lunch is provided. ACT Power Prep workshops will be held in WSU's Woolsey Hall, Room 110B on September 27, February 7, and June 8. Registration is now open for the September session. Students will need to contact their TRIO Talent Search Program Educational Advisor for registration instructions for the workshop. ACT workshops are especially beneficial for juniors who are required to take the USD 259 district-wide ACT. The information provided is not only relevant to the ACT test but useful for other tests as well.

Stay tuned to the Talent Search website and Facebook page at [www.wichita.edu/talentsearch](http://www.wichita.edu/talentsearch) for more information.



## Test Dates

TS program participants need to meet with their TRIO Talent Search advisor to obtain FREE fee waivers for the national ACT tests. Call or schedule an appointment today at [www.wichita.edu/talentsearch](http://www.wichita.edu/talentsearch). For more information on the online ACT practice tests, please visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

2025 Test Dates	Early Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
10/18/25	9/12/25	9/30/25
12/13/25	11/7/25	11/24/25
2/14/26	1/9/26	1/23/26
4/11/26	3/6/26	3/24/26
6/13/26	5/8/26	5/29/26
7/11/26	6/5/26	6/24/26

## Events 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



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# Campus Visits for Fall 2025

Mani Souriya, Associate Director/Statistician

Finding the right college is a process that requires students to take the time necessary to explore and research. The search for the right college involves looking for the best academic, personal, and geographic fit. The College Scorecard tool at <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov> can assist students in researching colleges of interest. Whether one chooses to pursue a certificate program, a two-year associate's degree, or a four-year bachelor's degree, postsecondary education can be expensive even with financial aid. Therefore, every student should ask themselves important questions to take into consideration when searching for a college. Some of the criteria to consider are college type, admission requirements, majors, location, cost, financial aid, campus culture, institution size, and academic opportunities.

## TRIO TALENT SEARCH 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 are subject to change.



**TRIO**  
WORKS  
**Talent Search**



**Mission**

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.

**Funding**

Both TRIO Talent Search programs are 100% federally funded by the Department of Education and are hosted by WSU. Funds for 2025-2026 are \$672,135 for TS and \$288,470 for TSS.

**Notice of Nondiscrimination**

1. 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.
2. 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:
  - a. In response to a formal complaint or charge;
  - b. In furtherance of an investigation, proceeding, hearing or action, including an investigation conducted by the University; or
  - c. Consistent with the University's legal duty to furnish the information.

*Thank you for reading!*

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