



TS EXPRESS

TRIO
TALENT SEARCH

DIRECTOR'S
MESSAGE



NEWSLETTER

Graduate Edition



Congratulations graduates!

What a tremendous accomplishment. The staff at TRIO Talent Search is very proud of all the students who graduated this spring. 2020 will be forever remembered as the year of the pandemic, but students should not forget all the hard work they put into fulfilling their graduation requirements.

While traditional graduation ceremonies were cancelled or put on hold, students should not feel any less important about this milestone. None of us in TRIO are going to discount the significance of a high school diploma.

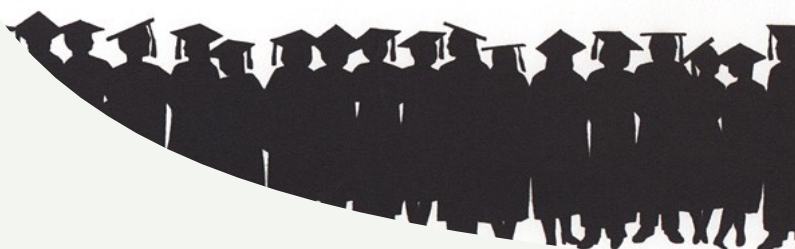
Take this time to reflect on all the positive experiences that high school afforded. Remember the social and academic clubs, sporting activities, and many friends who made a difference.



In this issue, several students share how they feel and what their future plans entail. Each also gives advice to students and encourages them to reflect on the bright future that awaits them.

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: MIA

- Stephanie Haynes, Middle School Director

Way to go Mia!

Talent Search is proud of all that Mia has achieved while attending Jardine STEM and Career Explorations Academy. Mia has been a participant with TRIO Talent Search since the seventh grade. Stephanie Haynes had the pleasure of meeting her while presenting to the AVID classes.

Mia has received several academic awards: the superintendent award, honor roll for three years, certificate of accommodation in leadership, and acceptance into the Early College Academy.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, research, writing, cosmetology and music- the oldies but goodies. She is attending Northwest High School next year. After graduation, she plans to major in business at Friends University and hopes to one day become an entrepreneur.

In the meantime, TRIO Talent Search is proud to have Mia as a participant and congratulate her on all that she has done thus far. It will be exciting to see what is yet to come. Keep up the GREAT work!

In-Person/Virtual Campus Visits

- Mani Souriya, Associate Director /Statistician

In response to COVID-19, many colleges and universities are moving towards virtual rather than live campus visits. Students will have to rely more on the power of technology for college exploration.

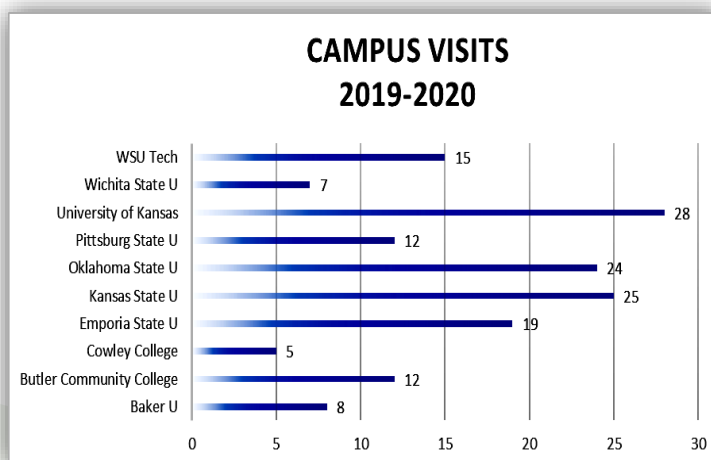
Before the quarantine, Talent Search participants were able to attend ten live campus visits: Baker University, Butler Community College, Cowley College, Emporia State University, Kansas State University, Oklahoma State University, Pittsburg State University, University of Kansas, Wichita State University, and WSU Tech.

A total of 155 students attended the live campus visits and were offered virtual campus tours for the remaining institutions: K-State Polytechnic University and the University of Tulsa.

Campus tours are a vital part of college decision-making, which is why students need to take advantage of the virtual campus tours.

College Raptor explains the pros and cons of the virtual tour. Pros included accessibility, cash savings, and time preserved. Cons were listed as impersonal with limited information and technical difficulties.

In light of COVID-19, graduating seniors who were undecided on which college to attend could virtually select any institution of interest despite the distance by going to www.youvisit.com.



Social Distancing: Mentoring Remotely

- Myron Richard, Program Educational Advisor

High school graduates have come to understand that the current pandemic has created an environment that has disrupted normal operations and led to a need for social distancing. As a result, Talent Search is responding with remote mentoring. Listed below are some of the topics for remote discussion.

- ◆ Acknowledging uncertain times
- ◆ Reducing psychological distress
- ◆ Providing reassurance
- ◆ Acknowledging health concerns and feelings of isolation
- ◆ Reviewing goals and expectations

These unparalleled times are affecting everyone in significant ways. Talent Search is here to provide students with reassurance that they do not have to face the challenges alone. Email Myron.richard@wichita.edu to schedule an appointment M-Th during regular office hours.



A Virtual Salute

- Vivian Pham, Program Educational Advisor

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. —Eleanor Roosevelt



Spring 2020 will be unforgettable. No one could ever have imagined that schools across the nation would close their doors and students would not return after spring break.

Unfortunately, the senior class of 2020 did not get to enjoy their last semester of high school. No prom. No traditional graduation ceremony. Communication between students, teachers, staff, and faculty have all been virtual via social media platforms like Remind, Whova, YouTube, and Zoom.

In this time of global challenge, everyone is forced to adjust and adapt to a new reality. Seniors are not exempt. They have had to overcome unimaginable obstacles.

Some have battled depression, anxiety and other mental health issues. Others have been disrupted by unemployment, homelessness, food insecurity, and the rise in domestic violence since the quarantine. Despite all this and the shortened school year, spring graduates have much to celebrate.

The Class of 2020 will be remembered for their unyielding strength, adaptability, ambition, perseverance, and unflinching hope. Though in-person graduation ceremonies have been postponed until July, virtual celebrations have been held in honor of these extraordinary students.

To the Class of 2020, congratulations! The TRIO community cannot wait to see what the future unfolds. Well done and best wishes!



Graduates Speak

- Sharon K. Robertson, Senior Administrative Assistant



"I have been working with TRIO Talent search since October 2018. As a 2020 Spring graduate, I have come to the last day of work with TRIO Talent Search. I sincerely thank the staff for their help and guidance. Also, I would like to give special thanks to Ms. Mani Souriya for giving me an opportunity to apply my skills in document auditing and data management. I strongly feel that the tools and skills gained from this organization will definitely help me in my job search as I establish a career in engineering." - *Deep Raninga, Spring 2020*

"I began my academic journey with Talent Search as a student in the program, participating in campus visits and the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program. When I became a WSU student, I applied for a tutoring position and was soon assigned to be the lead tutor, which helped me to learn office procedures and other marketable skills. After graduation, I was hired as the ACT/SAT program educational advisor for TRIO Talent Search. In that role, I have served students at Curtis Middle School and North High School for the past two years. In May 2020, I received my master's degree. There was no traditional ceremony held due to the coronavirus pandemic; however, a virtual ceremony honored our achievements. My advice to students is to work hard for the goals that you want to accomplish and never lose hope." -

Sara Baltazar, Spring 2020



"I'm not good at goodbyes so this has been hard to say. I will miss all of you and the time we've spent together. I did not realize when I joined the Middle School Summer Enrichment Program 11-1/2 years ago that it would lead to working three years as a tutor for Talent Search. It has been an amazing journey. The program is truly more than what meets the eye. It is a family and it shows. I love and appreciate all of the staff and students. You will always be in my prayers. I can't wait until the day I have established my career and am able to give back and help other TRIO kids. Students, keep striving to achieve every dream. Staff, keep up the good work. Also, shout out to the best boss ever, Myron Richard— not only a boss but a mentor for all of these years. Thank you." - *Halla Tucker, Fall 2019*

Congrats Grads!

Financial Times: Summer Edition

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

Look no further! Summer is the perfect time to look for work because, as a student, you have much more availability! Newspaper classifieds, Craigslist, and even asking your favorite restaurant if they are hiring are great ways to find out about job opportunities! Also, it is wise for students to invest time in writing a resume and an individualized cover letter for each job they apply for. This shows employers that the students are seriously interested in working for them and will set them apart from other applicants.

Upcoming Scholarships and Financial Aid

SBB Research Group STEM Scholarship - deadline: 8/31/2020

The ExpressVPN Future of Privacy Scholarship - deadline: 8/31/2020

Delete Cyberbullying Scholarship - deadline: 6/30/2020

Platt Family Scholarship Prize Essay Contest - deadline: 7/31/2020

Remember, most scholarship deadlines are in the fall so keep up with the CCC at USD259.org to prepare essays and any other materials needed while taking a break from classes!



Image source: 401kcalculator.org from Flickr

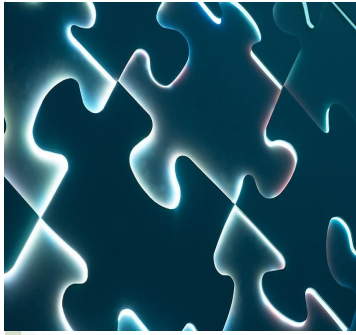
Money-Saving Tips:

Saving money while on summer break helps in the long run! Thinking about buying a new car? Wondering where to live after high school? These are important questions to ask one's self. During the summer, it is likely that more hours will be dedicated to work which translates into more pocket-money. Here are a few tips to stretch paychecks further when working at minimum wage or part-time.

The first tip is to deposit at least half of the paycheck into a savings account. This may seem excessive at first; however, the long-term benefits are more savings in less time and more controlled spending by not wasting hard-earned money on impulse buys.

Another tip, especially during summer, is to establish a budget. Set aside enough money for fun activities with friends, food outings or coffee trips, and gas for the car. Try not to spend more than the budgeted expenses in order to save more money over a shorter period of time. Keep in mind that saving money does not always mean the money will not be used for years. Some students work as many hours as possible over the summer so that when classes begin, they are able to go without a job and focus all of their energy and time on their education, applying for financial aid or scholarships, and applying to colleges.

- Sara Baltazar, Program Educational Advisor



Upcoming Events

June

6/1 Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) classes begin
 6/5, 6/12, 6/19 SEP fun activities
 6/26 Talent Show; SEP ends

July

7/4 Independence Day

August

8/17 Fall session begins



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 post-secondary program.

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