

CONGRATULATIONS
2019-2020
GRADUATES!



Being a first generation, limited income student comes with a multitude of challenges that family and friends don't always understand. It can be stressful finding the balance between managing family responsibilities, finding scholarships, spending late nights studying, and trying to work a part-time job. Social activities provide relief but they still infringe on one's time and energies. TRIO Talent Search is proud to be a part of the support system that helps students get through high school and prepare for postsecondary education.

Graduating from high school is a big accomplishment but it is not the end. TRIO is still available to help students navigate to the next level of their education. TRIO Student Support Services is a college level program that helps those pursuing an associate's or a bachelor's degree. The Ronald E. McNair Scholars program is designed to help TRIO students pressing towards a doctoral degree. For those who choose to take a few years off and want to enter school later as an adult, there is the TRIO Educational Opportunity Centers program.

Whatever path graduates decide to take, TRIO is here to help every step of the way. Congratulations to all of the students for a successful semester. Best wishes on all future endeavors!

- Sharon K. Robertson, senior administrative assistant

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Sania

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

TRIO Talent Search staff are invested in the success of every student. Their support does not end with high school. Many students remain connected by staying in touch and sharing their postsecondary experiences. Over the holiday break, Talent Search alumna Sania Saeed visited the program and shared her insights on life as a college student and offered advice to students who are contemplating their futures. This is her story...

How did TRIO Talent Search prepare you for college?

It exposed me to college campuses early and made me excited to be a college student. Through TRIO, I learned how to interact with people from different backgrounds and make friends with each of them. TRIO taught me life skills, like dealing with finances and applying for scholarships.

What memories do you have of your years in TRIO Talent Search?

Many of my memories at TRIO involve practicing for the talent show everyday after lunch. It was a time where everyone got to bond over learning the songs and where we all had the opportunity to support one another's talents and performances. I remember the TRIO staff and tutors being supportive throughout each and every summer, consistently reminding us that we were capable of succeeding.

How did you further your education after high school?

I enrolled in the University of Virginia (UVA), located in Charlottesville, Virginia. I am currently a sophomore, majoring in biomedical engineering.

How many students are in your average class at UVA?

For my courses in my major, the average class is about 60 students. However, introductory classes and large lectures have around 300 students.

What has been the hardest thing for you in adjusting to college life?

Managing my time has probably been the hardest thing for me to adjust to in college. In high school, adults micro-managed my life. Before college, adults established the routine: Everybody woke up at the same time, went to class for the same amount of time every single day, and then time after school was spent at extracurriculars and/or doing homework. In college, it was my sole responsibility to find the balance between studying, going to class at different times of the day, managing a social life, and getting enough sleep. I even had to plan how to manage eating three meals a day.

What is your advice for students who are thinking of going out of state for college?

You're always going to miss home; it's completely normal. The important thing is to remember that you're at college to experience new things and to grow your circle. Fill your free time with new friends and hobbies, but at the same time make sure to reach out to your family and friends back home to ensure your relationship with them stays strong too.

What are your future plans?

I haven't quite decided what I want to do immediately after I graduate with my bachelor's. I am contemplating on applying for medical school, but I am also intent on taking a year or two to work in the biomedical engineering industry.

- Larry Ramos, Program Director



Student Spotlight



Alexandria

Alex is a sophomore at Northwest High School who has been involved with TRIO Talent Search for five years and has maintained a 4.0 GPA while in the program.

She is very active in school and displays leadership in fine arts. She has been a part of the All-City Concert Choir for two consecutive years and has performed in major roles for school plays.

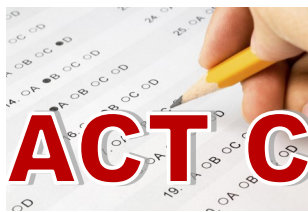
Alex has also spent two summers volunteering for the TRIO Talent Search Middle School Summer Enrichment Program, assisting with theater arts class. Her extensive interests include acting, stagecraft, stage movement, costume design, and make-up.

Alex plans to graduate from high school with a 4.0 and graduate from college within three years. Her goal

is to enroll in a university outside of Kansas and major in psychology. She is fascinated with studying the mind and believes it can be extremely rewarding, as it grants insight into how people think and why they behave the way they do.

Alexandria is a rising star of TRIO. Her determination has the makings of a bright future and a beacon of hope for generations to come.

- Sara Baltazar, Program Educational Advisor



ACT Changes

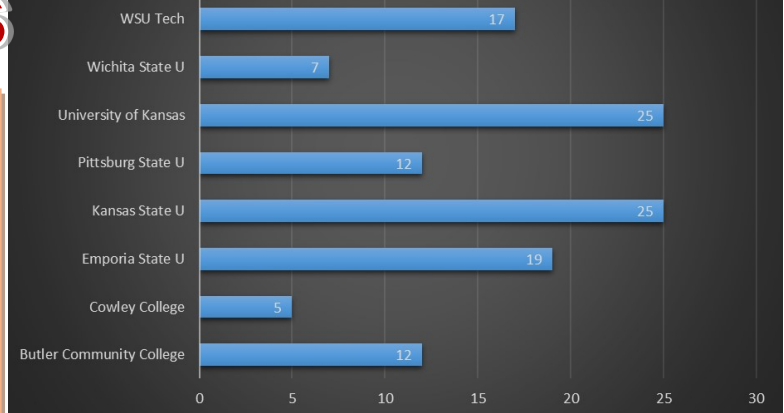
ACT Section Retesting begins September 2020. This new change will allow students the opportunity to retake single sections of the test instead of having to retake the entire test, focusing on one specific section to improve their composite score. Section retesting will be available to all students that have taken the full ACT test within the last five years. The cost for section retesting will be announced later this year.

ACT will also offer online testing later this year, which will give students faster testing results, in as early as two business days. On national test dates, students will be able to choose to take the ACT original paper test or online. Online ACT tests will only be available at specific locations.

For more questions about the new changes to the ACT and practice resources for students, please visit act.org. Upcoming ACT prep workshops will be held on March 7 and May 2, 2020.

- Vivian Pham, Program Educational Advisor

Campus Visits 2019-2020



This year's campus visits included: Butler Community College, Cowley College, Emporia State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University, University of Kansas, Wichita State University and WSU Tech. Future visits include Baker University, Oklahoma State University, Kansas State-Polytechnic, and University of Tulsa scheduled in March and April. So far, 122 students have participated in 2019-2020 campus visits. Above is a graph that illustrates the number of attendees who participated on each campus visit.

- Mani Souriya, Associate Director/Statistician

Summertime Fun



Are you an eighth grader with no plans for the summer?

If the answer is yes, come and be a part of the TRIO Talent Search Middle School Summer Enrichment Program. Come and enhance your skills in math, science, language arts, computer technology, life skills, financial literacy and theater arts. In addition, the program offers visits to several different college campuses, cultural arts experiences, motivational speakers, as well as a nutritious breakfast and lunch served each day.

The program runs from June 1 to July 30, 2020, Monday- Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 2:15 p.m. There is a \$20 application fee for each student. The cost for the program is *FREE!* The application is available in the main office of Brennan Hall I., room 319 on the WSU main campus. Call 316.978.3127 for more details. Don't miss out on this opportunity for a GREAT summer!

- Stephanie Haynes, Middle School Director

Steps to Choosing a Career

1 Assess yourself



2 Make a list of occupations to explore



3 Conduct informational interviews



4 Make your career choice



5 Identify your goals



6 Write a career action plan



the balance

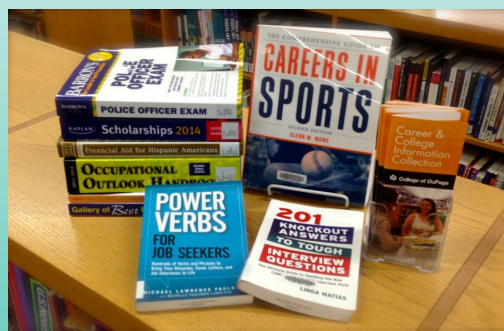
Some occupations are a better fit than others. Smart career planning involves gathering and examining information about one's self in order to make informed decisions.

In choosing the right career, students must identify their values, interests, soft skills, and aptitudes in connection with their personality types.

Talent Search encourages students to take self-assessment and career tests to reveal their strengths, weaknesses, marketable skills, and a list of ideal professions based on the test results.

Another option is to work with a career guidance counselor or other career professional who can help navigate the career planning process.

- Myron Richard, Program Educational Advisor



Special thanks to Mrs. Hansel at West High for allowing Myron Richard to present during each of her classes on Career Choices and Career Planning.

MARCH

- 3/5 OSU STEM Campus Visit
- 3/7 ACT Prep Workshop
- 3/8 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 3/13 No School USD 259
- 3/14 SAT Test
- 3/16-3/20 Spring Recess (No School)
- 3/26 KSU Polytechnic STEM Campus Visit

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.

Program Staff

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Upcoming Events

APRIL

- 4/1-3 KASFAA Annual Conference
- 4/3 SAT Registration Deadline
- 4/4 ACT Test
- 4/9 University of Tulsa STEM Campus Visit
- 4/10-4/13 No School USD 259
- 4/30 Spongebob Squarepants The Musical at Century II.

MAY

- 5/2 SAT Test
- 5/5 Cinco de Mayo
- 5/8 ACT & SAT Registration Deadline
- 5/10 Mother's Day
- 5/21 Last Day of School
- 5/25 Memorial Day Holiday (No School)

Have a lovely spring!



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