



Director's Message

The "Heat is On" by Glenn Frey is an 80's tune that was popularized by the motion picture "Beverly Hills Cop," starring Eddie Murphy. No doubt, many high school graduates feel the heat as the parties wrap up and the celebrating comes to a close. Graduates are left with deciding what to do next.

Finishing high school is awesome and a wonderful achievement! It is a great feeling to conclude this chapter in life; however, now is the time to figure out the next step because time waits for no one.

Axel Foley, the movie's fictional main character, felt the heat as time moved against him in solving the murder of his best friend. Every step, every decision had to be done right. In the end, Axel solved the crime and the heat disappeared.

Graduates must now decide whether to enroll in college or vocational-technical school, find a job, or be unemployed at 18 or 19 years old. As the song says, "You can make or break, win or lose. That's the chance you take when the heat's on you." Set attainable goals. Create a plan. Talk to a TRiO Talent Search advisor to help execute the plan. It can be done, but time is running out. The heat is on!

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Student Spotlight: Alonzo

- Stephanie Haynes, Middle School Director

Alonzo's middle school experience has been amazing because of all the life skills that he has gained in the three years he has attended Jardine STEM and Career Exploration Academy. His skill set has expanded because of his teachers and he is grateful that they did not just teach from the textbook but also applied real life examples to the lessons. Being at Jardine has truly made a difference. Alonzo has participated in leadership, AVID, and TRIO Talent Search. He enjoys writing because it allows him to express himself in a way that no other form of communication would allow him to do. He also enjoys music, which he sees as a form of self-expression and relaxation. This fall, Alonzo plans to attend the Early College Academy at Northwest High School. He hopes to attend Friends University and attend law school at Stanford University with the goal of one day owning an immigration law firm.



"There is a phenomenal sense of community at Jardine. I don't think that I would have been nearly as pushed towards my goals at another school."

Sweet Summertime!

- Sara Baltazar, Program Educational Advisor; Financial Literacy Coordinator

Congratulations students on achieving another year of school! Now that summertime is here, many students will be looking for a job or trying to save money. Here are some helpful tips.

Saving Money

Start budgeting: Create a budget to track where the money is going and make it easier to see whether or not it is going towards the intended purpose and savings goals.

Open a savings account: Opening a savings account allows students to invest in themselves and their future by transferring money to an account that accrues a percentage of interest over time. A savings account also helps the student to become financially responsible.

Use different phone applications to help save money:

<https://www.rakuten.com/> - Get cash back for shopping at any one of 2,500+ stores

<https://www.studentbeans.com/us> - Free student discounts

<https://home.ibotta.com/> - Get cash back for on-line and in-store purchases

Getting a Job

Looking for a job? Here are a few websites to start the job-hunting process.

<https://www.indeed.com/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/>

<https://workforce-ks.com/programs/youthemploymentproject/>

What should be taken to the interview?

Current photo I.D. or driver's license

Professional attire

Resume (if required)

Reference list



Career Ready: Make the Switch!

- Sharon K. Robertson, Senior Administrative Assistant

While some students relax during summer vacation, others may choose to search for a summer job. Whether the job position is for a fast-food restaurant, retail chain, or other, it is important to present one's best self in the interview. First impressions matter. It can be the difference between landing the job or receiving a rejection letter.

The basics:

- ✓ **Dress appropriately:** Show up in professional attire and be well-groomed (hair combed, clean, wrinkle-free). No heavy makeup or cologne. No sandals, flip-flops, or flashy attire. Avoid sagging pants, low-cut tops, and short skirts and pants. Limit the visible number of piercings and tattoos (cover them with clothing where possible) and avoid novelty clothing that can be distracting, deemed offensive, or inappropriate. The employer only has a few minutes to judge who appears to be the best candidate for the job. All they have to go by in an interview is the person's appearance, body language, verbal expression, character references (if requested), and the skills/qualifications listed on the job application and resume. There is a lot of ground to cover in a short time, so it is important to give the best impression possible for the best results.
- ✓ **Be prepared:** Know the location of the interview and arrive 15-30 minutes early to reserve time to relax and breathe. Research the company's website for background information. Applicants need to be able to tell the interviewer why they are the best candidates for the job. Relate back to the company's mission statement, the position description, and any personal experience with the company or its products to help answer interview questions. Focus attention on anything that could work to the applicant's advantage.
- ✓ **Code-Switch:** The way students speak in front of their parents is usually very different from how they address their peers. Mom may get a "Good morning;" whereas, a friend may get "What's up?" Code-switching taps into a different side of one's self depending on the situation. The person's way of talking or their behavior is adjusted to the circumstance. This is important in a job interview. A high-five at the end of an interview may leave the impression that the applicant is not skilled in social etiquette; however, a firm handshake would leave a better impression.
- ✓ **Display confidence:** Maintain eye contact and check the posture – sit up straight and don't fidget or make distracting noises, like clicking a pen or tapping feet underneath the table. Self-discipline shows confidence. Being aware of what the body is saying to the interviewer is just as important as what is being verbalized. Accentuate strengths, skills, knowledge of the company, and prior experience in the field of interest. Show the interviewer a genuine interest in being a part of their company's team. *Good luck!*

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."
- - - Milton Berle



Companies with Tuition Reimbursement

- **Myron Richard, Program Educational Advisor; Mentoring and Career Coordinator**

College can be expensive! For many students, financial aid and scholarships only cover a small percentage of the cost for a higher education. Here is a list of companies that offer tuition reimbursement programs, where the employer awards money to the employee to help cover some of the costs required to earn a degree or certificate.

Check out this list of companies with tuition reimbursement programs:

- Amazon: Pre-pays 95% of tuition and fees
- AT&T: Offers tuition assistance up to \$5,250 per year
- Bank of America: \$5,250 per year
- Best Buy: \$3,500 per year
- Chick-Fil-A: Tuition discounts and grants for employees to more than 100 colleges and universities
- Chipotle: \$5,250 per year
- Ford Motor Company: \$5,000 per year
- Home Depot: \$5,000 per year
- Lowes: \$2,500 per year
- McDonalds: \$3,000 per year
- T- Mobile: \$2,500
- Target: \$3,000
- UPS: \$5,250 per year
- Verizon: \$8,000 each year
- Walmart: Pre- pays cost for all tuition and fees
- Wells Fargo: \$5,000 per year



ACT Test Optional

- **Vivian Pham, Program Educational Advisor; ACT/SAT Coordinator**

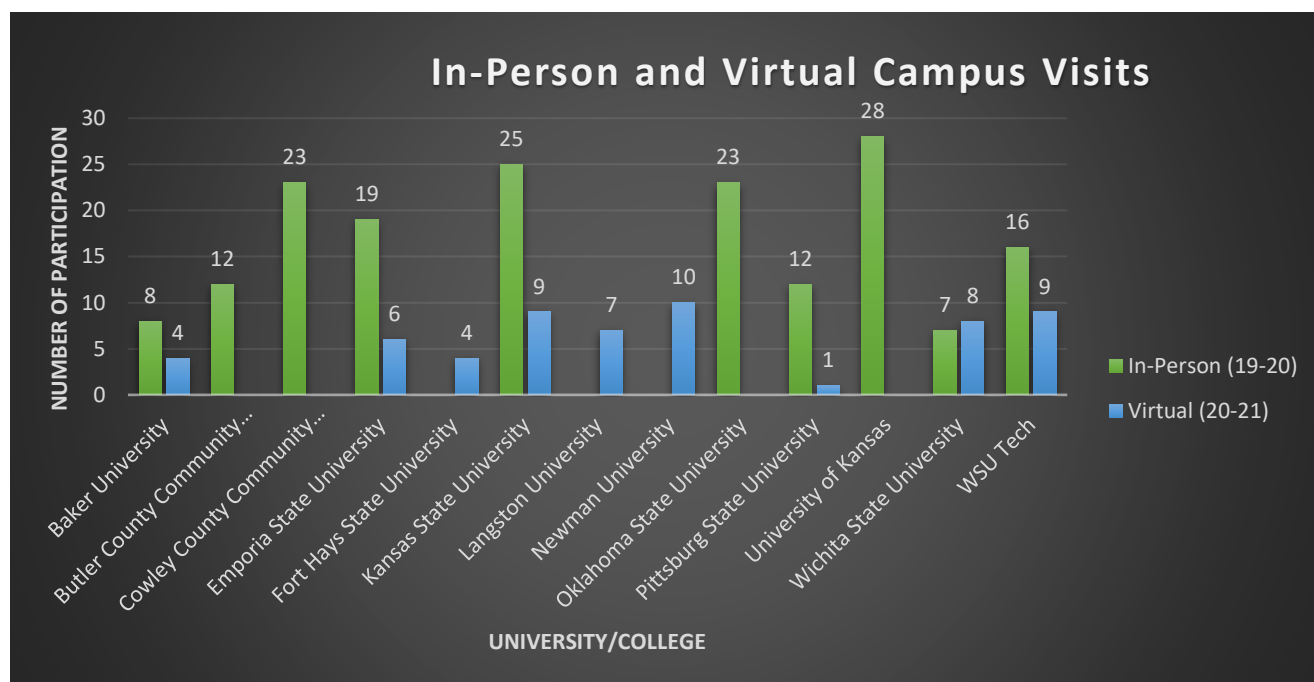
All 11th grade students were given the opportunity to take the ACT test provided by the USD 259 district back in February. Students could take the test in-person at their designated school with COVID-19 protocols in place. However, not all of the juniors took the exam for various reasons. Due to the pandemic and test-taking barriers, many colleges decided to be test-optional until fall 2022, meaning that ACT scores would not be required for submission with their college applications.

Students who begin their senior year this fall should consider taking the ACT Test in October to qualify for more scholarships. Talent Search plans to help by partnering with MasteryPrep to provide an ACT Bootcamp. This would entail a four-hour virtual workshop led by an engaging instructor. The event will be free for all Talent Search middle and high school students who want to practice test taking strategies and learn how to improve ACT test scores. More details will be determined later this summer. For more ACT information, please contact Vivian Pham at 316-978-6754 or Vivian.pham@wichita.edu.

Virtual vs. In-Person Campus Visits

- Mani Souriya, Associate Director; Statistician

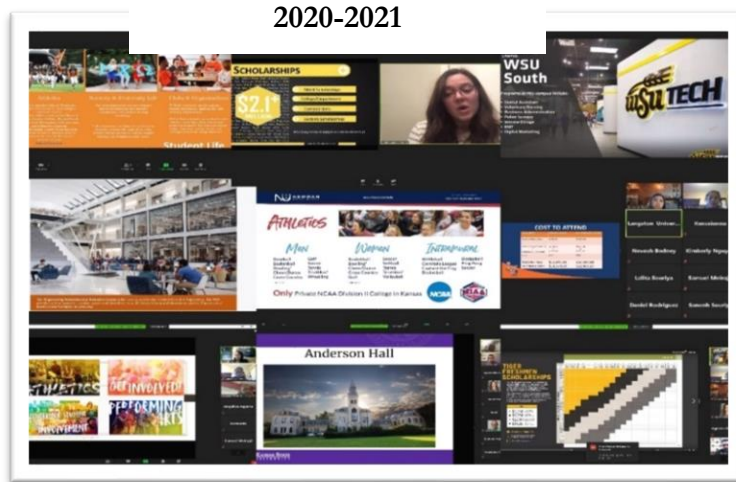
One of the most popular services that TRIO Talent Search provides to students throughout the year is the campus visit. In 2019-2020, students visited several of the Kansas Board of Regents universities and community colleges in person. In 2020-2021, the students were offered virtual campus visits via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Below is a graph that demonstrates the number of students who participated in virtual campus visits and in-person campus visits. It is clear from the data that students prefer in-person campus visits over virtual campus visits. Planning is already underway for 2021-2022 campus visits.



2019-2020



2020-2021



Calendar Events

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:

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June 2021

- 6/1 | Virtual Middle School Summer Enrichment Program (VSEP) Session 1 Begins
- 6/4 | Let's Talk High School Presentation
- 6/5 | SAT Test Date
- 6/11 | Southwestern College Campus Visit; Escape Room
- 6/12 | ACT Test Date
- 6/14-18 | National Student Leadership Conference
- 6/18 | Career Day; Paradigm Shift Activity; ACT Registration Deadline
- 6/25 | VSEP Session 1 Academic Awards & Talent Showcase; VSEP Session 1 Ends
- 6/26 | VSEP Session 2 Parent Meeting

July 2021

- 7/4 | Independence Day Observed
- 7/6 | VSEP Session 2 Begins
- 7/9 | Southwestern College Campus Visit; Escape Room
- 7/16 | Fun Friday Activity
- 7/17 | ACT Test Date
- 7/23 | Career Day: Education Equals Opportunity
- 7/30 | VSEP Session 2 Academic Awards & Talent Showcase; VSEP Session 2 Ends
- 7/31 | SAT Registration Deadline

August 2021

- 8/12 | First Day of School



Program Staff

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