Hello, TRiO Talent Search Students & Parents!

Now is the season to think about building your experience bank and, for seniors, complete scholarship applications. When I was a high school student living in a neighborhood with lots of drug problems and few recreational resources, I was deeply bothered when the basketball hoop was removed by the City Parks and Recreation department. I decided to act: a friend and I gathered signatures from community residents and presented the problem in a City Council meeting, then worked with the City Mayor to solve it. As a result, the city installed a new basketball hoop! The experience was rewarding, and I was happy to help improve activities in my neighborhood through community service.

A year and a half later, I was applying for every scholarship I was eligible for—just like our seniors are doing now—and I needed three letters of recommendation. I called the Mayor’s office and sent him my resume to remind him of the work we had done together. He wrote one of the letters I needed. That letter helped me secure four scholarships which, along with my free federal and state financial aid, allowed me to pay for my first two years of college. Without that scholarship money, I would have had to take out student loans.

Our seniors are going through the process of financing their educations right now. While most of our students qualify for free state and federal grants, there are still expenses left over that need to be paid. Our answer is scholarships! My story illustrates a few essential points when it comes to scholarship searches.

First, build your experience bank. Get involved in a variety of school clubs and activities and participate in community service. As you do so, you will find areas where you are more passionate. Students who are passionate about their activities and who get involved have more competitive college and scholarship applications.

Next, build your social capital and network. I only worked with the mayor once, yet he was able to write a letter of recommendation for me that was important to financing my education. Network with a wide variety of people, especially in professional environments. Always be respectful and kind to your teachers, school administrators, counselors, and employers, and don’t be afraid to ask them for letters of recommendation!

Finally, start early! Middle school is a great time to start building your experience bank and your social network that will lead to successful scholarship searches, college applications, and employment. Continue your efforts as you begin high school and college, and you will find yourself qualified for a variety of scholarships! Keep a record of everything that you do, and don’t forget that your Talent Search advisor can help you keep track of your activities and look for scholarships.

I hope that we will all take extra care of ourselves during this winter season as the days are shorter and the nights are colder. Reach out and stay connected to your educational community. If you find yourself in need of academic help, please contact our office or your Talent Search Advisor for tutoring. Happy New Year, everyone!

Respectfully,
Rose Sita Francia
rsf9@humboldt.edu
In Remembrance
We are saddened to share news of the loss of longtime Educational Talent Search TRiO employee, Cary Bellak, who passed away in late September. Cary graduated from HSU in 1989 with a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Information Systems. He was the first employee hired by Talent Search in 1992 and since then, he has provided data analysis and IT support. Cary was also a skilled graphic artist and took pride in designing inspiring t-shirts, event posters, program brochures, and websites as the program grew over the years. His favorite part of the job was providing academic and college prep experiences for students. We miss him in the Talent Search office, and we extend our condolences to his family and friends.

#TRiOFAM
What is #TRiOFAM? As a participant of TRiO Talent Search, you are now part of a larger extended network – the TRiO Family. There are generations of TRiO Alumni who have achieved educational and career goals through TRiO programs, and there are many TRiO Alumni generations to come (hint—YOU!). Being a part of #TRiOFAM means that we look out for each other, respect each other, and are committed to each other. As Talent Search Advisors, we are committed to your educational success, and as Talent Search students, we hope you respect and continue to value your educational journey. #TRiOFAM means we all succeed together! -GQ

Talent Search Advisors

Michelle Cartier
South Fork HS
Miranda JHS
McKinleyville HS
Curriculum Coordinator
mlc15@humboldt.edu

Elva Ortega
Eureka HS
Arcata HS
Tutoring Coordinator
e尔va.ortega@humboldt.edu

Coley Gaines
Fortuna HS
East HS
Willow Brook
Communications & Events Coordinator
coley@humboldt.edu

Jorge Ambriz
Zane, Winship, Pacific Union, McKinleyville, & Fortuna Middle
Hoopa HS
jorge.ambriz@humboldt.edu

Gema Quiroz-Torres
Hoopa HS
Trinity Valley El
Hoopa El
Mattole Valley
gema.quiroz@humboldt.edu

Shawn Dean
Del Norte HS
Crescent Elk El
Castle Rock
Smith River El
Redwood El
shawn.dean@humboldt.edu

Scholarship Resources

Humboldt Area Foundation
Scholarships specifically for Humboldt County Seniors.
Applications are open now.
Due March 15th!
hafoundation.org

American Indian College Fund
collegefund.org/student-resources/scholarships/scholarship-programs

Jackie Robinson Scholars
Due February 17th
http://www.jackierobinson.org/apply

SACNAS: Chicano/Hispanic & Native Student Resources
http://www.sacnas.org/students

United Negro College Fund STEM
Due February 23rd
uncf.org/scholarships

Humboldt HSU Scholarships
humboldt.edu/finaid/scholarships.html

Every university has scholarships available, so check often with your chosen university for their campus-specific scholarship opportunities.

Don’t hesitate to ask your TRiO advisor for a letter of recommendation.

WWW.HUMBOLDT.EDU
TALENTSEARCH@HUMBOLDT.EDU
HUMBOLDT.EDU/TALENTSEARCH
P: (707) 826-4971 | F: (707) 826-5212
**S E N I O R S**

**COLLEGE STUDENT PORTALS:** Check the portals for all the schools where you applied! You’ll use your portal to commit to a school, to check financial aid, and to see a to-do list of everything you need to do to be able to go to college.

**APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID!**
- FAFSA Deadline is MARCH 2nd!
  - FSA ID: fsaid.ed.gov
  - FAFSA: fafsa.ed.gov
- Contact your HS Counselor or your TRiO Advisor with any questions or concerns.

**CHECK YOUR CALGRANT AWARD:**
To view your CalGrant award, go to the website and make an account. In February, make sure to update your account with the school you’ll be attending in the fall. Ask your HS Counselor or TRiO Advisor to help with the process if needed! mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov

**SCHOLARSHIPS:**
Apply for as many as you can! Check your chosen college student portal for campus and departmental scholarships! Check with your Counselors and TRiO Advisor for more resources.

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**J U N I O R S**

**Standardized Test Season is arriving quickly,** so sign up to take the SAT today! Look to sign up for the ACT in March or April as test dates have not been announced yet. You must take either the SAT or the ACT by December of your senior year for college applications. Ask your Talent Search Advisor about using a Fee Waiver for regular registration.

**NEED HELP STUDYING?** Khan Academy has partnered with College Board to provide free online-based tutoring for the SAT. Practice your critical reading, math, or time management skills before the big test! Focus on the areas you need the most help with. For more info, visit: khanacademy.org/sat

**APPLYING TO A UC?** All UC applicants must take the SAT with Essay or the ACT with Writing. If you are considering a major in engineering, math, or science, it is strongly recommended that you take Subject Tests for Math Level 2 and one other test which relates strongly to your intended major (physics, chemistry, or biology). No Subject Tests are available for the March SAT test date. For more information on admissions requirements, visit: admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman

**SAT Test Date** | **Registration Deadline** | **Late Registration**
---|---|---
March 11 | February 10 | February 28
May 6 | April 7 | April 25
June 3 | May 9 | May 24

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**F R E S H M E N & S O P H O M O R E S**

Keep your grades up! Make sure you are getting Cs or better in your A-G courses. Get involved in school activities. Write down all of your volunteer work and extracurricular activities. Go to tutoring if available. Work closely with your TRiO Talent Search advisor to make sure you’re doing everything you need to do now to be ready for college.

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**M I D D L E S C H O O L U P D A T E**

Hi! This is Jorge Ambriz, the College Access Academic Advisor servicing our local middle schools. Over the past few months, I have had the pleasure of working with your students on college preparation and study skills. 6th graders worked on time management, where students had a time budget and had to fill in their day with “have-to’s” and “want-to’s.” 7th and 8th graders worked on learning styles, where they explored how they learn best in order to prepare for our post-break activities. Additionally, 7th graders explored different methods of note-taking to tailor to their individual preferences. 8th graders explored test-taking strategies with hopes of making the test-taking experience less stressful. 6th and 7th graders also reviewed the four college systems, and 8th graders learned about A-G requirements. We have financial aid and career exploration to look forward to in the new year.

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**A - G REQUIREMENTS**

A-G COURSES ARE THE GATEWAY TO ATTENDING A 4-YEAR UNIVERSITY—PASSING THEM WITH A ‘C’ OR BETTER QUALIFIES YOU TO ATTEND! *All courses must be considered College Prep.* Students must take two years of a Language other than English and one year of Art. Grades in A-G courses must be a ‘C’ or better.

Earning a ‘D’ does not count! See your high school counselor regularly to make sure you’re on track, and talk to your TRiO Advisor.

*HS graduation requirements and A-G requirements are different!*

- □ A: History – 2 years
- □ B: English – 4 years
- □ C: Math – 3 years (4 recommended)
- □ D: Lab Science – 2 years (3 recommended)
- □ E: Language other than English – 2 years
- □ F: Visual & Performing Arts – 1 year
- □ G: College Prep Elective – 1 year

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**HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY**

WWW.HUMBOLDT.EDU
TALENTSEARCH@HUMBOLDT.EDU
HUMBOLDT.EDU/TALENTSEARCH

P: (707) 826-4971 | F: (707) 826-5212
Tutoring is getting off the ground at several school sites. Tutoring is offered in class, after school, or a combination of both, depending on the school site. Due to the availability of tutors, some sites may only offer tutoring once a week. See where and when we offer tutoring below, and call our office if you need tutoring services. (707) 826-4791

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Union Middle School</td>
<td>Eric</td>
<td>Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays</td>
<td>6th Grade Social Studies &amp; Science Classes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Coast Learning Academy</td>
<td>Vania</td>
<td>Mondays &amp; Wednesdays</td>
<td>6th Period &amp; After School</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zane Middle School</td>
<td>Julie</td>
<td>Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays</td>
<td>After School until 5:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Fork High School</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
<td>Mondays &amp; Wednesdays</td>
<td>During School Day in Integrated Math Courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoopa &amp; Trinity Valley El</td>
<td>Felicia</td>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>Exact Details TBA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fortuna Union High School</td>
<td>Coley</td>
<td>Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays</td>
<td>After School until 5:30 in the Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSU Library</td>
<td>Ellie</td>
<td>Mondays, Wednesdays, &amp; Fridays by Request</td>
<td>3:30 – 5:00 (tutoring upon request; transportation to HSU not provided)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fortuna Union High School Tutoring

Coley here, TRiO Talent Search advisor at Fortuna High. TRiO Talent Search has partnered with the senior service project “Change the World” to provide after-school tutoring twice a week. Two seniors have chosen to do their projects as peer tutors. A quick Google search of “peer tutoring success” shows that receiving help from peers is extremely beneficial, both for the tutor and the tutee. Peer tutors sit in the same classes as their tutees, or did in a previous academic year. They learn from the same teachers and read the same books, and often experience similar frustrations. We have already seen grades improve for several students. Please email me with any questions.

Study Hours are offered after school until 5:30 in the Library Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Tuesdays: Math to Algebra II, English, History, Biology, Spanish I

Thursdays: All Math, English, History, Biology, Chemistry, All Spanish

Del Norte County Update

Crescent Elk Middle School and Del Norte High School are seeing transformative change with their new collaboration with TRiO services. So far, 45 students have signed up to work with us, including 29 high schoolers and 16 middle schoolers. Right now, we are focusing on personalized transitional folders for students to prepare these students to be successful in high school and life after high school. In January, we hope to complete our first student-created 3D-printed Art Gallery fundraiser. Check neighborhood stores in Crescent City for fliers with specific details, still TBD.

Parent Partners in Education

Have you ever wondered how you, as a parent, can help support your child in their academic endeavors? Do you feel a bit intimidated by the school system and how it works? The Humboldt County Office of Education, the Decade of Difference, and Humboldt State University have partnered to create a FREE program to help parents learn to navigate their children’s education system and help support their children in succeeding in their academic goals. Classes start soon at Pacific Union and Alice Birney Elementary Schools and will be delivered by Talent Search Advisor Jorge Ambriz.

Student Leadership Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pacific Union</th>
<th>Alice Birney</th>
<th>Once a Week</th>
<th>Childcare &amp; Snacks</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 10 - Feb 14</td>
<td>Feb 1 – Mar 29</td>
<td>6 Weeks</td>
<td>Provided</td>
<td>No Charge!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRiO Winter Academy

February 19th-21st

@ HSU (by invitation only)

Northcoast Youth Summit

March 18th

@ College of the Redwoods

If you are interested in attending the Northcoast Youth Summit, contact us as soon as possible! (707) 826-4791

Freshmen & Sophomores: Leadership events happen every year. If you are interested in increasing your leadership skills and building a strong resume for college and scholarship applications, plan to attend these events in the future.
I T IS N E V E R T O O E A R L Y T O S T A R T!
ALEXANDRIA TAPIA, COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR FROM SOUTH FORK HIGH SCHOOL

Q: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FALL OF 2016?
A: Ideally, I get accepted into my top school which is Colombia in New York, but even if I don’t get into this school I am still going to college.

Q: IF YOU GET INTO THE SCHOOL OF YOUR CHOICE, WHAT ARE YOUR HOSES FOR NEXT FALL?
A: I want to get my years of general education done quickly. I want to study medicine, and get a specialty to become a pediatrician.

Q: HAS TRiO TALENT SEARCH HELPED YOU WITH THE RESOURCES YOU NEEDED IN ACHIEVING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GOALS? WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST HELPFUL TO YOU AS A TRiO TS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT?
A: Yes, my TRiO counselors have helped me a lot ever since I started going to South Fork. They are always available and love to help me with what I need to do, like checking my essays, college applications, and scholarships.

Q: WHAT WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SO THEY CAN ACHIEVE SIMILAR GOALS?
A: It’s never too early to start planning out all your classes and to study for your standardized testing ... that way you have all your requirements to graduate and some extra college prep that looks awesome on your curriculum and to always try to maintain a high GPA.

Q: WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED ABOUT IN GOING TO COLLEGE NEXT YEAR?
A: Moving and exploring new places and meeting new people and to succeed.

Q: ANY OTHER AMAZING TIPS OR INSIGHT ON THIS COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS?
A: IT’S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START. Don’t leave anything to the last minute. Always be one step ahead to assure your internal peace and to increase the quality of your work.

E U R E K A H I G H S E N I O R S U R P R I S E D W I T H $1,5 0 0 !

Andrew Conness, a senior at Eureka High School, receives his scholarship award. He was announced the winner of the Suddenlink/Altice Hispanic Heritage Month national essay contest. He was presented his $1,500 award in a surprise ceremony attended by his mom, counselors, and school staff on December 16th. He was encouraged to apply by his TRiO advisor, Elva Ortega.

C E N T E R

C A L E N D A R

January 10, 17, 24, 31 & February 7, 14: Parent Partners in Education Series @ Pacific Union School, 6-7:30pm
February 1, 8, 15 & Mar 8, 22, 29: Parent Partners in Education Series @ Alice Birney School, 6-7:30pm
February 19th-21st: Winter Academy @ HSU; by invitation only; arrive noon on 2/19, depart 10am on 2/21
MARCH 2nd: FAFSA FINAL DEADLINE
March 18th: Northcoast Youth Summit @ CR, 8am - 4pm
March 24th: Spring Preview @ HSU -and-
April 7th: Spring Preview @ HSU
April 7th: TRiO Transition Dinner @ HSU; for students attending HSU in the Fall; details TBA

S T A Y T U N E D:
May 2017: TRiO Transition @ College of the Redwoods
Summer 2017: Middle School Robotics Day Camp
Summer 2017: High School University Day Camp

WWW.HUMBOLDT.EDU
TALENTSEARCH@HUMBOLDT.EDU
HUMBOLDT.EDU/TALENTSEARCH

P: (707) 826-4971 | F: (707) 826-5212
TRiO Educational Talent Search is a pre-college program aiming to improve the academic strengths and college readiness of students in grades 6-12.