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ETS Target Schools

www.cpa.charter.k12.mn.us
www.humboldt.spps.org
www.northeast.mpls.k12.mn.us
www.washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us
**A Word From Our Director**

Heidi O’Hair, ETS Director

**St. Olaf TRIO Educational Talent Search Welcomes You Back**

Welcome to the start of the 2014-2015 school year! We hope that you enjoyed your summer break and that your school year is off to a great start.

The TRIO ETS Newsletter is an opportunity to share information and news about past and upcoming programming and activities with students, parents, and our partner schools. It is also a way for us to highlight and showcase some of the great work that is being done in St. Olaf TRIO ETS schools.

This year, TRIO Educational Talent Search is excited to welcome a new partner school, Community of Peace Academy, in St. Paul. Staff will also continue working with students at Minneapolis Washburn High and Northeast Middle School, as well as St. Paul Humboldt High School.

Approximately 700 6th-12th grade students will have the opportunity to participate in college visits, mentor program events, classroom and small-group workshops, academic advising, and financial aid/financial literacy events through their participation in ETS.

Students: It is the goal of our program to help prepare you for entrance and completion of postsecondary education. Please stop by the ETS office at your school to get involved in more activities or to contact your advisor if you have questions or need help!

Best wishes for a successful 2014-15 school year!

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**Hello All,**

My name is Lou Lia Wang and I’m so excited to be joining the ETS team this year. I have been a TRIO student since my freshmen year of high school until I finished college. I started in the TRIO St. Olaf Upward Bound program and then the TRIO St. Olaf Student Support Services program. I graduated from St. Olaf College in 2014 and majored in Sociology and Anthropology with a concentration in Family Studies. During college, I was a student worker for ETS as their database assistant and now I’m an official team member who will be giving the data to a student worker. Oh the glory that awaits them.

I love to spend a significant amount of time watching television, when I can, and other things I do on my free time would be watching more television. I’m really excited to be a part of ETS and serving TRIO after all it has done for me. Please feel free to stop by and chat. I love getting to know people and I love hearing stories.

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**Upcoming College Visit:**

**Gustavus Adolphus University**

**November 18, 2014**

*See Advisors for a Permission Slip*

Tour campus, visit dorms, see what college is like!
SUMMER CAMP 2014
Minnesota Institute for Talented Youth (MITY)

Twenty-two students from Humboldt High School, Washburn High School and Northeast Middle School attended the MITY summer camp. MITY is a two-week academic summer camp held at Macalester College. The spring was busy as ETS Advisors spent time with these students helping them fill out and send in their applications. In addition to the application, students were required to send in a teacher’s recommendation and illustrate high performance through their transcripts.

While at MITY, students were able to live in the residence halls at Macalester College, take rigorous courses and make life-long friendships! MITY provides students with exceptional teachers, small class sizes, course-related field trips and social events (www.mity.org). Courses offered through MITY included: “Pstimulation Psychology,” “All Roads Lead to Rome,” “Song Writing,” and “Experimental Economics” to name a few. After talking with students, their favorite aspects of the camp included: the awesome and energetic teachers, the interactive nature of their classes, bonding with their roommates/new friends, doing something productive in the summer, and the experience of living on a college campus for two weeks.

Study Skills

By Youa Moua

Maintaining good study habits will help you learn your material and succeed in school. This means that if you want to do well, you must be willing to set aside time to study and do homework. The below are some tips to help you be successful.

SET UP A SCHEDULE/USE A PLANNER. For classes that are harder, make sure you give yourself more time to study or do homework. Make sure to use a planner to keep track of assignments. Also, make time for recreation and social activities; they are important to have a balanced life.

FIND A GOOD LOCATION. Where you study can determine how much you concentrate. Make sure the place is comfortable, but not too comfortable. Sitting at a desk or table is best. Avoid lying across the bed.

ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS. Talking on the phone/texting is a major distraction when you are trying to study. Other distractions that you should look out for are TV, Facebook, and family talking around your study area. Once you get rid of as many distractions as you can, you will improve you study skills.

IDENTIFY HOW YOU LEARN. Find out what works for you. Are you a flash card person? Maybe you write down vocabulary words 20 times each in order to learn them. Experiment with new things, but stick to the tried-and-true study skills that have worked for you in the past.

USE YOUR RESOURCES. If you are struggling in class or with organizational skills, talk to your teacher or ETS Academic Advisor about the concern and brainstorm ideas to solve the problem.
ETS parents and students,

Not everyone has the desire or opportunity to pursue a college education, but a college education will provide you with better opportunities in the future!

Lack of money should not prevent you from pursuing a higher education. The Federal Government provides aid to more than 10 million students each year with grants, low interest loans and work-study programs.

The Department's Federal student aid programs are the largest source of student aid in America. These programs provide more than $80 billion a year in grants, loans, and work-study assistance.

Scholarships may also be available from the Federal and State government, your college, and even local companies or your parent’s workplace.

Looking for Financial Aid is free.

Be careful with financial aid advice services that charge for their services. You might have heard or seen these claims at seminars, over the phone from telemarketers, or online.

To learn more about Financial Aid or for tips to assist you to prepare your student to be a responsible adult, please visit the following websites below.

http://www.fafsa.ed.gov
http://studentaid.ed.gov
http://www.ohe.state.mn.us
http://www.collegeboard.org

Financial Aid Scramble

How much do you know about Financial Aid? Use your knowledge and solve by arranging letters into Financial Aid terms.

1. Fasaf _____ _____ _____ ______
   Acronym for the process of applying for financial aid help.
   (Hint: Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

2. Taearedtllw _______ _______ _______ _______ _______
   A notice from a college containing specifics about your financial aid award.
   (Hint: A---d L-tt--)

3. Nalrpegl _____ _____ _____ _______ ______
   Provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate.
   (Hint: P--- G----)

4. cfe_ __ _____
   Acronym for a phrase that measure your family's financial strength and is calculated according to a formula established by law.
   (Hint: Expected Family Contribution)

5. imiefrofornticva
   About 30% each year, selected family will have to prove their earning on this form in order to receive financial aid.  (Hint: V-------t--- F---)

6. rustptdneoeirda
   Summarizes all the information you provided on your FAFSA.  (Hint: SAR)

7. 1nuyrjaa _____ _____ _____ ______
   A specific date when you can begin applying for the financial aid.
   (Hint: J-----y -)

8. bnmuneirp _____ _____ _____ ______
   This is a term for four digit that can act as your signature for the FAFSA.
   (P- N----r)

9. nucetrrenotimax _____ _____ _____ ________
   A document stating how much your family income is.  You will need it to complete the FAFSA application.  (Hint: I----e T-- R---r-)

10. tarnsg _____ _____ _____
    Free money given to students base on family income.  (Hint: G----t-)

11. oanls _____
    Money borrowed in which it gains interest and must be paid back when you leave school.  (Hint: L---s)
It’s Time to Apply Yourself!
By Jevita Baheriy, Academic Advisor

Now that the Class of 2015 has made it to their senior year, all the work that you have been doing with ETS will start to pay off. You are ready to apply to college. Below are steps that we think will help you during the college application process. This might seem like a lot of work, but don’t worry, your ETS Advisors are here to help. Come see us if you have questions.

Tips For Parents/Guardians

ETS can help your student:

1. Research and choose at least FIVE colleges to apply to by November 30.
2. Visit with their school counselor to make sure they are on track to graduate on time.
3. Sign up to take or re-take the ACT if needed and if applying to a 4-year college.
4. Write a personal essay for scholarships or private college applications and make edits.
5. Search for scholarships.

How You Can Help:

1. Ask about the colleges they are applying to. Encourage them to finish applying by November 30.
2. Encourage them to talk with their high school counselor to make sure they will graduate on time.
3. Ask if they have started writing their personal essay and encourage them to let other people read it.
4. Help them search for scholarships. Ask people at work, your place of worship, the bank and in the community if they know of any local scholarships.

Important Vocabulary:

**ACT**: A test 4-year colleges require students to take.

**Personal Essay**: Some 4-year colleges and scholarships require personal essays for admissions.

**Scholarships**: Free money that students can apply for to use to pay for college. Usually scholarship applications require an essay.

Tips For Seniors

Getting to college is not easy. In fact, it takes time, effort, and knowledge. Sometimes it may feel impossible for a student to do it alone. Fortunately, there are things that you can do to help you enjoy the college application process and have a worry-free senior year.

Below are steps that will help you during the college application process. This might seem like a lot, but your ETS advisors are here to help.

September:

1. Pick FIVE colleges that you would like to attend and begin those applications. Visit these colleges, if possible.
2. Ask for teacher recommendations.
3. Sign up for the ACT again.

October:

1. Continue working on applications.
2. Visit with admissions counselors who come to your high school.
3. Don’t let your schoolwork suffer! Colleges look at your senior year transcript.

November:

1. Finish up your applications - your applications to five colleges should be mailed by November 30th!

December:

1. Find out if you qualify for scholarships at each college you have applied to.
2. Winter break gives you lots of time to polish up your essay and résumé, not to mention work on those scholarship applications!

Remember, we are here to help! Ask your TRIO ETS Advisor for help or call us toll free at 800-621-7601.
ETS Alumni Spotlight

**High School:** Washburn High School Class of 2014

**Currently Attending:** North Dakota State University

**Major:** Psychology

**Current Classes:**
1) Psychology
2) Human Biology
3) Introduction to Sociology
4) Math 103
5) Human Biology Lab 126
6) Universal Studies

**How he prepared for college his senior year:**
I never gave up on school. You have to keep the mindset that college is what is next.

**Advice to current seniors:** Have fun, be who you are, and don’t be afraid to make mistakes.

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**High School:** Humboldt High School Class of 2014

**Currently Attending:** St. Olaf College

**Majoring:** Undeclared but planning on Political Science

**Current Classes:**
1) Mass Media
2) International Relations
3) Bible/Community/Culture
4) Beginning Chinese

**Best experience yet about college:** Being an individual who is independent.

**New experience since college:** Partaking in the resident hall activities that allow the freshman students to get to know each other.

**Advice to current seniors:** Stay busy and get used to it! Be strict with your time and don’t slack off. Get used to having to check your email every other hour. Stay calm and come in prepared.
High School: Washburn High School Class of 2002

Undergrad: BA in Social Work, St. Olaf College

Graduate: Masters of Social Work, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Current Position: School Social Worker for the Milwaukee Public School District

ETS Alumni Success Story

When did you start working with the TRIO programs?
I began working with the Educational Talent Search Program as a 9th grade student at Washburn High School. However, the TRIO program has been making an impact in my life and my family's long before I entered 9th grade. My older sisters Bor Yang (North High School, ’96) and Pa Kou Yang (Washburn High School, ‘01) also participated in the Educational Talent Search Program while in high school. My brother Francis Yang (Roosevelt High School, ’00) and sister Chee Yang (Roosevelt High School, ’01) participated in the Upward Bound Program.

Do you feel that TRIO helped to prepare you for college? How?
Yes, I do. I remember multiple discussions with my ETS advisors regarding which classes I should take and the importance of grades to help increase my chances of getting accepted into college. As well, I was able to visit colleges, speak with, and listen to college students share their experiences in higher education.

Do you remember a specific advisor that had an impact on your future?
I would love to thank my Educational Talent Search Advisors, Katie Olives and Dan Jackson for helping me with college applications, completing the FAFSA and landing an interview with St. Olaf admissions which guaranteed my acceptance and enrollment into the college. This was the stepping stone to all the opportunities that came afterwards and I will forever be grateful. As well, I want to thank Kathy Glampe and Janis Johnson for continuing to support me even after graduating from St. Olaf almost 10 years ago.

What was your biggest challenge in college?
I think my biggest challenge in college was being a part of a community that looked and felt very different from me. As a first generation student, a student of color, and being from a family with a lower economic status, at times I felt a lack of connection to the school and the majority of its students. However, as I reflect back on this time I realize that a great deal of how I felt was really just that, how “I” felt. My experience in college could have been different, even better if I had opened up and explored my surroundings, the different opportunities and friendships.

What are you doing now? - ie, Working? School (your major, etc.)?
I completed my Master’s degree in Social Work in 2013 and I am relieved to say that I am currently working as a School Social Worker for the Milwaukee Public School District.

What are your goals for the future?
Honestly, I would like to get married, have babies and travel the world as an international social worker for a few years.
Educational Talent Search (ETS) is a TRIO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education and sponsored by St. Olaf College. The ETS program annually assists 700 middle and high school students as they explore their academic and vocational options and set goals for the future. ETS Academic Advisors, in cooperation with school counselors and teachers, provide college preparatory services through workshops, classroom activities, and group and individual counseling sessions.

St. Olaf College Educational Talent Search works at the following four schools: St. Paul Community of Peace Academy, St. Paul Humboldt High School, Minneapolis Northeast Middle School, and Minneapolis Washburn High School.

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Address Service Requested