

TRIO Talent Search Program  
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# TRIO newsletter

“To provide the motivation and support necessary for students in the Tacoma School District to go to college.”  
 A partnership of the Metropolitan Development Council and University of Washington Tacoma  
 Spring 2008 Newsletter

## New Scholarship for 7th and 8th Graders!!

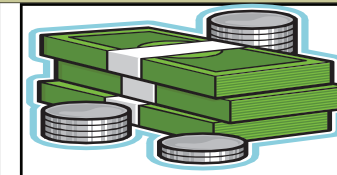
A new scholarship program geared toward 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students is beginning in Washington State. Eligible students – typically those who receive free and reduced-price lunches can apply for the scholarship by completing the following two steps:

1. Complete the College Bound Application
2. Sign a pledge agreeing to maintain a 2.00 GPA, graduate from high school, and be good citizens in their schools and communities.

In exchange, the State of Washington will make a commitment to pay for tuition and books at a rate comparable to the tuition at public institutions.

What this means is that if a student receives this scholarship, and graduates from high school, all they will need to find financial aid for is room and board and miscellaneous expenses such as travel. This scholarship makes a huge dent in the cost of college and makes it much more affordable for students and families.

Another amazing aspect of this scholarship is that every 7th and 8th grader who meets the guidelines listed above automatically qualifies for the scholarship. This isn't just for the “smart kids” with great GPA's. If everyone who was eligible in the State of Washington applied, over 56,000 students would earn the scholarship. Over 2,500 students in the Tacoma School Dis-



trict are eligible and all it takes is a simple application and a pledge on the part of students and families.

For more information and an application, please speak with a TRIO Advisor at your school. Or, you can also call or email the Higher Education Coordinating Board at 360-753-7872. Students can apply online at: [www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound](http://www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound). The due date is June 1st, 2008.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity! College can be affordable if you take advantage of opportunities like this!

## Events for high school students

FAFSA Workshops	Jan
Pacific Lutheran U. (10th Grade)	2/21
St. Martins (9th Grade) Note-taking workshop	2/27
Career Visit (Health) (10th Grade)	3/7
Community Service (All Grades)	3/15
Western Washington U (11th Grade)	3/20
Spring Break Tour 4 Eastern Washington Colleges (11th Grade)	3/31–4/2
Senior Workshops on scholarships and understanding award letters	April
Cultural Event (All grades)	May
SAT/ACT Prep class (11th Grade)	May
Senior Banquet	June

## Events for Middle School students

College exploration workshops	Jan–Feb
University of Washington-Tacoma	1/17, 1/22, 1/29
Bates Technical College	2/5
Pacific Lutheran U.	2/13, 2/26, 2/27
Community Service	March
Seattle Pacific U.	March
Leadership and transition	April–
Cultural Event	May
Career Day activities	May

## TRIO Contact Information!!

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## TRIO students learn art of glassblowing

The art of glass blowing continues to grow in popularity in the state of Washington and the next Dale Chihuly could be one of our TRIO 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from McIlvaigh Middle School.

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students from McIlvaigh had the opportunity to apply for a special glass blowing club provided by TRIO and Hilltop Artists in Residence at Jason Lee Middle School. Ten

students were selected based on their excellent behavior and passion for art. These students have been working every Friday afternoon on projects in glass blowing and bead making.

Not only are they learn-



ing the specific skills needed for working with glass, but they are also learning valuable lessons in teamwork and personal responsibility.

When asked what their favorite thing is about glass blowing, students replied unanimously that they loved the people at Hilltop Artists that help them every week. But, making amazing art to take home and share with their families was a very close second!

## LHS Senior Raeshelle Cranshaw wants to help children

### What is your favorite food, music, and movie?

My favorite food is soul food; greens, yams, potato salad, corn bread and chicken. My favorite music is R&B, and my favorites movies are Love and Basketball and Waist Deep.

### Where have you applied to college and why?

I have applied to three colleges, PLU, UPS, and UWT. I like PLU because they offer a lot of different programs I'm interested in and I like the environment. I like UPS because it's close to home, and UWT because it has a strong program in my major.

### Why have you decided to go to college?

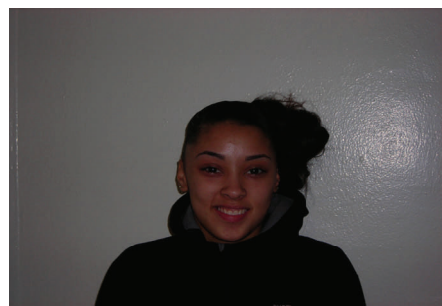
I want to further my education and have many opportunities so that when I'm an

adult I can have money in my pockets and live healthy and wealthy:)

### What will you major in at college?

I want to major in Sociology or Social work. My career goal is to be a social worker for children.

**How has being in TRIO helped prepare you for college?**  
TRIO helped me to narrow my college options to my top 3 choices. It helped me



decide the best place for me for the next 4 years of my life.

### What advice would you give younger students who are just entering the program, or just entering high school and aren't sure how to get prepared for college?

I would tell younger students not to procrastinate and to get serious about their education right away. I would hope younger students would make smart decisions early in high school so they don't have to play catch up later. I would encourage them to visit as many college campuses as possible. Finally, I would tell them to write down what's important to them and focus on that when deciding what college to attend.

## MTHS senior Stephane Mukendi inspired by Art

### What is your favorite food, music, and movie?

I have to say that my favorite food is Chinese. My favorite movie would be 'The Kingdom,' starring Jamie Foxx and Jennifer Garner. My kind of music is Hip-Hop and some if it is unclassifiable.

### Where have you applied to college and why?

My first choice is UW because of their Engineering Program. I also applied to Seattle U where if accepted I will be studying Psychology. At the moment I have a few more applications that I will send out soon.

### Why have you decided to go to college?

The reason I've decided to go to college is

because my uncle, who got me interested in art, was an architect and college is the biggest step to accomplishing this goal.

### What will you major in at college?

Once I go to college I will major in Architecture because it will apply education to art - and there is nothing more that I love to do.

**How has being in TRIO helped prepare you for college?**  
TRIO has great connections to various colleges and being part of the program links me to these colleges. The TRIO program keeps me updated, and without it, no-one else is going to come up to me to let me know what I should be doing.

### What advice would you give younger students who are just entering the program, or

### just entering high school and aren't sure how to get prepared for college?

To younger students, I would encourage them to join the TRIO program as well as apply for the Achiever's Scholarship and other opportunities. The TRIO program is there to let you know you don't have to go through high school alone.



## Greater Tacoma Community Foundation offers many scholarships

The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation (GTCF) is committed to improving the quality of life throughout Pierce County by promoting generosity in our community, helping neighbors invest in Pierce County, helping professional advisors serve their clients better, and making grants to effective nonprofits, playing a key role in addressing community needs -- today, tomorrow and far into the future.

The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation's scholarship funds provide assistance for students seeking higher

education. The Foundation works with over 30 Pierce County high schools to administer scholarships held by the Foundation. Talk to your high school guidance counselor for information regarding available GTCF scholarships and for additional information about applications and financial aid.

The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation is grateful to the generous donors who have established over 80 scholarship funds for students in the Tacoma-Pierce County community. During fiscal year 2007, GTCF disbursed nearly

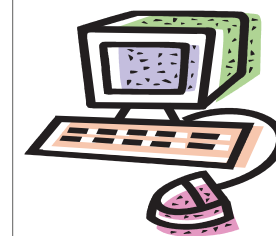
\$182,000.00 in scholarship awards to 140 Pierce County students. Scholarship funds have been established to promote post-secondary education for students in the donor's neighborhood or alma mater; as memorials to beloved relatives; to qualified members of nonprofit clubs and even as surprise birthday gifts.

For more information about the scholarships available through the Foundation, go to [www.tacomafoundation.org](http://www.tacomafoundation.org) or call 253-383-5622.

## Helpful Websites for families

Although there are many websites available to help students and families understand the college admissions and financial aid process, two in particular are well known for their simple and clear information.

The first is called Know How 2 Go. The website can be found at [www.knowhow2go.com](http://www.knowhow2go.com). The site offers detailed information at each grade level that helps students and parents understand how they can be preparing for college each year. In addition, students can sign up for a free newsletter that highlights important college preparation information.



The information is also available in Spanish.

The second website is First in the Family which

can be found at [www.firstinthefamily.org](http://www.firstinthefamily.org). This website is designed specifically for families where the student is the first in the family to go to college. Through video, the site includes interviews of various students who were the first in their families to go to col-

lege. Each individual talks about the struggles and obstacles they faced in high school and college and what they've done to overcome those hardships. In addition the site offers some inspirational stories, planning for college checklists, and other resources that help families to understand the necessary steps in preparing for college, as well as how to afford it.

We at TRiO highly recommend that you look at these two wonderful resources as you begin to think about and plan for college, no matter what grade level you currently are in.

## Partnership with UWT provides mentoring for TRIO seniors

Eighteen University of Washington, Tacoma students have signed up as mentors with the STEPS College Access Project to offer assistance to TRIO high school seniors by helping them navigate the complicated and overwhelming path to college.

STEPS pairs current UWT students with TRIO high school seniors in one-on-one mentoring relationships focused on support and guidance navigating their senior year, including graduation requirements, college selection and successful transition to college. The pairs commit to meeting

an average of once a week, to spend an hour working together to utilize available opportunities and resources for the ultimate goal of academic success, and enrolling in college. The role of a mentor is a unique one. They are not a parent or a teacher; they are offer friendship, assistance and guidance, all of which is shaped by the high school student's goals.

One mentor's experience captures the spirit of the mentoring relationship, "This has been a terrific opportunity for me to share what I have learned. The student I work with is

*also teaching me so many new things. I also realize how important it is for students to receive encouragement from lots of different people."*

STEPS is a part of the AmeriCorps Retention Project. The UWT Diversity Resource Center works in collaboration with the TRIO program to provide the training and resources mentors need to support their high school student partners. The cooperative effort of all these programs and individuals not only assists the participants, it strengthens our community.

## Career Cruising for Middle Schoolers

An essential component of a student's success in high school and beyond lies in researching post-secondary and career options throughout the years prior to graduation. Career Cruising is a new program adopted within the last few years by the Tacoma School District designed to help students identify and explore career paths, and match those paths with college options.

TRIO middle school advisors work with 8<sup>th</sup> graders to begin building their online portfolios via the career cruising website at [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com). Students answer several questions about

their interests and skills with the goal of exploring potential careers.

Based upon how a student answers the questionnaires, the website projects the top careers the student might be interested in pursuing. A student utilizes this information to discover how they might develop an education plan in high school to prepare them to attain their career goals.

Career Cruising acts as a sort of online resume in addition, with every element (from writing career and life goals to posting work and volunteer experience) of the website dedicated to

helping students organize themselves now and for their future.

The end result? By their senior year, students are developing an on-line portfolio and more and more students are acquainted with the myriad of career and college options available to them. The process also negates some of the anxiety of uncertainty students face as they approach graduation and adulthood. Students leave high school with a much clearer sense of what is next in their life and how to attain their goals.