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## Inspiring High School Students to Become Scientists

Several Talent Search students, from four high schools were nominated by their counselors to share in the opportunity to explore hands-on experiments, exhibits and activities by NASA AMES Research Center and a multitude of universities.

The highlight of the day was a guest presentation by Native American astronaut, John Herrington. During his 40-minute speech, Herrington described his unforgettable travel to space in the Endeavour and his stay at the International Space Station.



*Angellea Irwin, Maite Cortes, Astronaut John Herrington, Mitchell Kirk, Mirriam Duron, and Ramius Davis*

Annually the Society of Chicanos & Native American's in the Sciences (SACNAS) hosts an annual conference for college students, faculty, and professional scientists to share ideas, opportunities and research. In 2011, this event was held in San Jose, CA – just a 7 hour drive from Humboldt State University! It included a SACNAS Community day designed to provide local high school students the opportunity to explore science, technology,

engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in an interactive community environment.

One student commented, "I honestly wasn't thinking of going to college because I was afraid to go that far. The trip made me think that if I give it my best I can reach what I want. Like the NASA astronaut said, "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams, live the life that you have imagined."

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## Five Hoopa Grads Receive Gates Scholarships

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This year five Hoopa Graduates were selected as Gates Millennium Scholars, a scholarship to be used at the college(s) of their choice through grad school. They are Elisha Flores, Darian Ferris, Ashtyn Colegrove, Orion Cosce, and Ryan Matilton. Together, they comprise five of the top ten students in their graduating class.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation awards 1,000 full scholarships nationwide each year to African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans and Asian/Pacific Islander Americans. These scholarships include tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies for all of their post-secondary education. Scholarship applications require elaborate writing, gathering of materials, and two lengthy letters of recommendation and nomination. They are a challenge to complete. These students were up for the challenge and were honored for their efforts. Talent Search congratulates them and wishes them well in all future endeavors.

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## A Message From The Director



It has been rewarding to reflect on the wonderful accomplishments of last year and to plan for the future of Humboldt State University Talent Search TRiO. We want to honor all who have assisted us in preparing students so that they may achieve their educational goals.

This past year we have helped students gain thousands of dollars in scholarship funding, entrance to prestigious colleges, confidence in pursuing their dreams and happiness from accomplishing new challenges. It is a pleasure to prepare students for

college by assisting them with rigorous curriculum, providing the TRiO Elective, assisting them with filling out their financial aid forms, taking them on college tours, etc. This year we are submitting our first cohort of students entering college to the U.S. Department of Education. We will be following their success to ensure that they complete college within six years.

We look forward to serving you this year and encourage you to participate in upcoming events and activities. Please feel free to contact us, "Like" us on Facebook, visit our website and let us know how we can improve our services. We are working diligently to help our students enter and navigate the educational pipeline.

## Talent Search TRiO Educator of the Year - Jim Stewart

by *Martha Johnson*

Every morning when I arrive at South Fork High School before first period, the first person I see is Principal, Jim Stewart, walking around the grounds unlocking doors, picking up after the ravens who have raided the trash cans overnight, greeting the early bird students, and eating his apple. He has a warm greeting for everybody he meets.

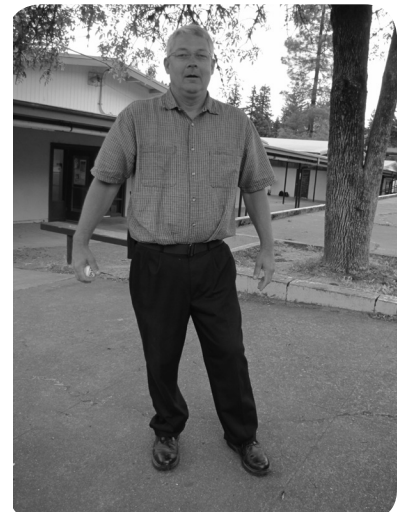
While serving as Principal at South Fork High, Mr. Stewart showed how much he loves that school through his efforts to improve the school for the students, the staff and the community. One of his first projects was to organize "Campus Beautification Work Parties" in the summer with students, parents and members of the community. They spent one summer painting the entire school. He had 32 computers installed in the library and the new lab is used every day. He is quick to award students who are doing a good job, and he knows who they are because he is available every day during break time and lunch. When I see him at lunch, he is usually chatting amiably with students. It was Mr. Stewart's idea to organize a bus caravan to protest the legislature's actions toward cutting the state school's transportation budget.

In his capacity as the district's interim Superintendent, he mobilized the community, the schools and

the students to participate in a protest at the state capitol in Sacramento.

Talent Search is most grateful for Mr. Stewart's steadfast support of our new TRiO Elective program. Through TRiO Elective, College of the Redwoods allows college level courses to be taught on our high school campuses three days a week, with Talent Search Advisors teaching the Talent Search students the remaining two days. This greatly reduces the need to call students out of other classes that they shouldn't be missing. Mr. Stewart was excited about piloting the program for us, and it has been successful the two years it's been offered.

We appreciate and thank Mr. Stewart for his support, and for being a model Principal at South Fork High.



*Talent Search TRiO Educator of the Year - Jim Stewart*

## Changing School Culture

By Kevin Santos Flores

Great things are happening at Zoe Barnum High School. Three Talent Search students took the SAT in February and March of this year. These students took the SAT so that they could be eligible for the Cal Grant. In the fall, I was notified that graduates from ZBHS were ineligible for the Cal Grant because ZBHS is an unaccredited high school. However, if a student took either the SAT



Graduates Kyle Zoellner and Damian Conn with Academic Outreach Specialist Kevin Santos Flores

or ACT, then he/she would be eligible to receive the Cal Grant. There was no question in my mind that I would do my best to help the students at Zoe Barnum High School receive the Cal Grant.

Beginning in January, three students began participating in the Talent Search SAT prep program. With

two of the students only having a few weeks to prepare for the exam, I created a schedule that

focused on improving their weakest SAT test-taking skills. The students received help from math teacher Michelle Mayo and YouthServe Americorps Mentor Amy Mathison. Two students will be receiving the Cal Grant B, with one scoring in the 84<sup>th</sup> percentile for the math section! We await the Cal Grant award notification for the third student. It was a great experience to help these students receive this award as they continue their education.

### Talent Search TRiO Wins National Award

Humboldt State University's Talent Search TRiO Program was one of the 3 recipients of the Council for Opportunity in Education's **Identifying Best TRiO Practices for College Success** national awards. The director of the program will be presenting our outcomes which demonstrate exemplary, replicable work, for all National TRiO programs, in preparing students for success in post-secondary education at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual COE Conference in New York.

## Talent Search TRiO Welcomes New Families

Talent Search hosted a Welcome Dinner and free giveaway at the Samoa Cookhouse for parents of students who have recently entered the Talent Search TRiO Program.

The January 18<sup>th</sup> event was well attended by parents and their students. A comedy improvisational team entertained while the food was being served. Talent Search Advisors Kevin Santos Flores and Paul Wells gave a bilingual orientation addressing the college going process, including fi-



nancial aid, college prep classes, career goals and the importance of good study habits and for the parents to become familiar with the information their students will receive in Talent Search.

Some parent comments were: "It was exciting and made me wish I could go back to college now.", "The program has given us valuable information as well as help us to motivate the students", and "I now have a better understanding of how your program works." A huge giveaway provided by Bed, Bath, and Beyond followed, with families choosing sheets, towels, pillows, kitchenware and gadgets to take home with them. The event was such a success that Talent Search plans to host a similar dinner each year. Watch for announcements in the mail!

## Talent Search Students Help Adults with Tax Forms

This year Talent Search students teamed up with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program through the Redwood Community Action Agency. The mission of the VITA program is to gather volunteers to assist eligible taxpayers in satisfying their tax responsibilities by providing free



Tax helps from left to right: Stephany Yang, Vianey Lopez, Hailey Chase, and Shyann Ubedei

tax return preparations. Volunteers are required to maintain the highest standard of ethical conduct and provide quality service. Talent Search students Stephany Yang, Shyann Ubedei, Vianey Lopez, and Hailey Chase from Eureka High completed the Volunteers Standard of Conduct Training course

to get certified in tax law. The IRS-certified tax course took place at Eureka High over three days, and students volunteered many weekend and after school hours to complete the training. Talent search student Vianey said, "The trainings were long and fun. After the classes ended I felt smarter and was ready help families save money. Clients would come to our sites where we get their information down and help them claim important tax credits such as the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit giving them the best possible refund as possible." Talent Search students volunteered at locations such as Eureka High, Fortuna High, and Eureka Libraries. Shyann Ubedei, a Talent Search student said, "It was a good experience. You learn how to do your own taxes!"

Alberto Ramos an Americorps mentor with Talent Search who informs students and volunteers with them said, "We contribute to our community by performing a rewarding community service. We promote tax understanding and awareness by meeting new people and working as a team. We got free training and IRS certification; as well as expanding our resumes."

Lindsay De Witt, VITA Program Coordinator said, "We made it all a success. We prepared 566 returns which is a 40% increase as compared to last year."

To be eligible for FREE tax help in Humboldt County, people's 2011 income had to be less than \$50,000 and U.S. citizenship is not a requirement.

## LATIN@ MENTOR DAY

by Maite Cortes, Fortuna High School

I really enjoyed seeing more students and a wider variety of schools from all Humboldt County, attend this year's Latino Mentor Day Conference. Years ago, it began with less than 25 students and over time, it has spread and welcomed over 100 students. While living in a place like Humboldt County, most of the students are limited to their resources, and through this conference, students receive the help needed with Talent Search. Latinos have one of the lowest percentages in college

attendees, but Latino Mentor Day encourages the students that attend to go to college. The mentors at the conference share their stories and motivate the students to pursue a higher education. All the workshops make students aware of what surrounds them and recognize why things function as they do. I hope to see Latino Mentor Day expand over the next years and change the lives of these students.



## TRiO/EOP Day reminder

Welcome back seniors! Very soon you will begin applying to colleges. Seniors who want to attend Humboldt State University or one of the other 23 CSU's in 2013 are welcome to sign up for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual TRiO/EOP day at HSU.

It can take many months to find out if you were accepted to a college. All that time waiting can be very stressful. At TRiO/EOP day you will have the opportunity to be instantly admitted to HSU, get



connected to the EOP program, get help with the financial aid process, apply to other CSU's, meet college students and learn about some of their experiences-- All before the Nov. 30 deadline to apply to CSU's!

The event will be held in the middle of October 2012. Get in touch with your Talent Search Advisor for more information and to sign up, or call the Talent Search TRiO office at (707)826-4791.



Like Humboldt State  
University Talent Search  
TRiO On Facebook



Talent Search would like to make contact with our alumni who are in college! We are proud of our students, and want to know what they're up to!

We need to track students who received College Access Scholarships and students who are in four year schools for a study on the number of students who stay in college and graduate. One easy way we can do this is through Facebook. If alumni "like" Humboldt State University Talent Search on Facebook, they will see announcements asking them to make contact. Talent Search staff will then make note of alumni status for the study, keeping the information anonymous. You don't have to be our "friend," you just have to "like" us!

## Come ON! You Know You Like Us

### Talent Search TRiO

Talent Search is a pre-college program annually serving 1000 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. The purpose of Talent Search is to help students improve their academic skills and attend the college of their choice.

Workshops offered at the students' schools include information on

- College Preparedness • Careers
- Study Skills • Financial Aid

Activities include special seminars for parents, campus tours and tutoring. Talent Search serves students who are the first in their family to attend college, and/or are income eligible. Services are offered at the following schools:

Fortuna Middle School	Arcata High School
Hoopla Valley Elementary	Eureka High School
McKinleyville Middle School	Fortuna Union High School
Pacific Union Elementary	Hoopla Valley High School
Trinity Valley Elementary	McKinleyville High School
Zane Middle School	South Fork High School
	Zoe Barnum High School

Talent Search is a federal TRiO program. TRiO legislation was enacted in 1965 by Congress to provide educational opportunities for all Americans regardless of ethnicity or income.

*Serving Humboldt County since 1991.*

## Growing up in Competitive Surfing

**M**athias Nicklin, a Talent Search TRiO senior from South Fork High School has been surfing since he was two years old. His family lived in Escondido, Mexico for most of his life. That is where some of the biggest waves in the world are. He surfed every summer wave season, and entered most Mexican national contests for under 8 yr. olds. He consistently came in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place in every race. Eventually, sponsors began to pay his way to contests all over the world. At these tours, each surfer earns points and their total determines their standing at the end of the season. Mathias always made it to the top 10 in his class.

About surfing, Mathias says “it’s the funnest sport there is. I like to do a lot of sports, but surfing is it for me.” Since moving to Southern Humboldt, he has surfed all along the California Coast and including Humboldt County. He definitely plans to continue his favorite sport when he starts school at Humboldt State University next fall.



Surfer dude Mathias Nicklin

## College Access Scholarships From Talent Search

This year, Talent Search TRiO was able to offer students a new scholarship through the College Access Foundation of California. Each year, the Foundation awards grants to partner organizations like Talent Search to help finance college scholarships for more than 4,000 low-income students and support efforts to help even more students enroll in college and graduate.



Talent Search TRiO staff were there to support students as they completed the scholarship application. One student said” I couldn’t have done it without Cheryl (Outreach Specialist) I almost quit!” Students who are enrolled in 4 year colleges receive \$3,000 each year if their grade point average is 2.5

or better, and if they are going full time(at least 12 units.) Students attending community colleges receive \$1,500 per year, and will receive \$3,000 when they transfer to a 4 year college for their final two years. They too, have to maintain a 2.5 GPA and attend full time.

This year, seventeen Talent Search TRiO students received this great scholarship. They were: **Jesse Rovai** and **Aedan Stranahan** from Arcata High, **Bao Vang, Jeanie Vang,** and **Stephany Yang** from Eureka High, **Irene Gonzalez, Brady Shaha** and **Colten Collings** from Fortuna High; **Jerome Pollara and Angela Irwin** from Hoopa High; **Vanessa Ramirez, Manuel Melesio** and **Dayton Dean** from McKinleyville High; **Trevor Hall, Mathias Nicklin,** and **Isabel Maggiani** from South Fork High; and **Rachel Hogan** from Zoe Barnum. Talent Search TRiO is delighted to contribute to their student’s education and help them reach their college goals. Talent Search TRiO congratulates these hard working students and wishes them well in their next educational adventure.

## Talent Search Students Tour The Bay Area & Sacramento

Talent Search TRiO had the privilege of taking 15 students from South Fork, Eureka, Hoopa, and Arcata High Schools on a Sacramento and Bay Area college tour. Here's what some of the students had to say about the trip:



Talent Search students at Mills College

*"Best trip ever! It was so much fun visiting all the colleges. It was cool because I got to see what college life is like. It has definitely helped me narrow down my college choices."*

- Madigan Trenberth



Talent Search at UC Davis

*"The trip gave me the opportunity to explore more colleges than I thought I would ever have. I learned so many things like the programs the different colleges offer. It was such a great experience and we had so much fun!"*

- Stephanie Xiong

*"The trip helped me see all the opportunities I have. I fell in love with the Sacramento area and campus. Now my goal is to go to CR for two years then transfer to Sacramento State."*

- Jasmine Brown



Talent Search students at Sacramento State

*"I am grateful to Talent Search for giving me the great opportunity to visit and learn about more colleges. Now, because of Talent Search, I am focusing on my career by getting more information from them. This is the only program that helps us get to know more about colleges. I loved everything about the trip & meeting new people."*

-Sharmin Irfan

## Futuro Youth Institute – FYI

Talent Search Alumnus and graduate of Fortuna High School and Mills College, Isabel Cortes will be hosting the Futuro Youth Institute



Isabel Cortes (right) with sister Maria Elana

in Humboldt County on September 21-22, 2012. This institute is designed to support Latino youth to build their education, leadership, and social justice skills.

Any interested high school junior/senior is eligible to attend. Please contact Isabel for further information at [futuroyouth@gmail.com](mailto:futuroyouth@gmail.com) or you may call her at 707-599-0879.





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# Talent Search TRIO Newsletter 2012

For more information about Talent Search  
or to request an application to participate,  
call (707) 826-4791 or email us at  
talentsearch@humboldt.edu

visit our website at:  
[www.humboldt.edu/talentsearch](http://www.humboldt.edu/talentsearch)

## Talent Search Mission:

*We identify, advise and mentor  
college bound students to  
actualize their  
full potential.*



## Talent Search TRIO Staff

- Adrienne Colegrove-Raymond - Director
- Asrid Aspoy - Administrative Assistant
- Martha Johnson - Activities Coordinator
- Cheryl Ash - Academic Outreach Specialist
- Kevin Santos Flores - Academic Outreach Specialist
- Paul Wells - Academic Outreach Specialist
- Cary Bellak - Information Technology Consultant

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