



**TRIO**  
TALENT SEARCH



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

*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*  
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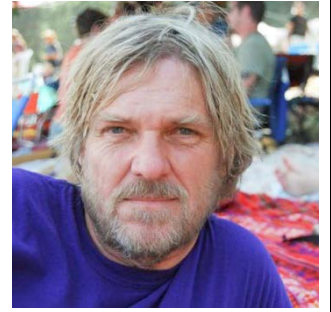
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## IN REMEMBRANCE

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  
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**ELVA ORTEGA**  
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**COLEY GAINES**  
Fortuna HS  
East HS  
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Communications &  
Events Coordinator  
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**JORGE AMBRIZ**  
Zane, Winship,  
Pacific Union,  
McKinleyville, &  
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**GEMA QUIROZ-  
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**SHAWN DEAN**  
Del Norte HS  
Crescent Elk El  
Castle Rock  
Smith River El  
Redwood El  
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## SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

**HUMBOLDT AREA FOUNDATION**  
*Scholarships specifically for  
Humboldt County Seniors.*  
*Applications are open now.*  
*Due March 15<sup>th</sup>!*  
hafoundation.org

**AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND**  
collegefund.org/student-resources/  
scholarships/scholarship-programs  
**SACNAS: CHICANO/HISPANIC & NATIVE  
STUDENT RESOURCES**  
http://www.sacnas.org/students

**JACKIE ROBINSON SCHOLARS**  
*Due February 17<sup>th</sup>*  
http://www.jackierobinson.org/apply

**UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND STEM**  
*Due February 23<sup>rd</sup>*  
uncf.org/scholarships

**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.**



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## SENIORS

**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 2<sup>nd</sup>!  
 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](http://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.

## JUNIORS

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.

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

**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](http://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](http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman)

## FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES

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!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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." 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders worked on learning styles, where they explored how they learn best in order to prepare for our post-break activities. Additionally, 7<sup>th</sup> graders explored different methods of note-taking to tailor to their individual preferences. 8<sup>th</sup> graders explored test-taking strategies with hopes of making the test-taking experience less stressful. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders also reviewed the four college systems, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders learned about A-G requirements. We have financial aid and career exploration to look forward to in the new year.

## 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

## TUTORING UPDATES

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

SCHOOL	TUTOR	DAY	TIME
PACIFIC UNION MIDDLE SCHOOL	ERIC	TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS	6 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES & SCIENCE CLASSES
NORTH COAST LEARNING ACADEMY	VANIA	MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS	6 <sup>TH</sup> PERIOD & AFTER SCHOOL
ZANE MIDDLE SCHOOL	JULIE	TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS	AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL 5:00
SOUTH FORK HIGH SCHOOL	SYDNEY	MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS	DURING SCHOOL DAY IN INTEGRATED MATH COURSES
HOOPA & TRINITY VALLEY EL	FELICIA	WEDNESDAYS	EXACT DETAILS TBA
FORTUNA UNION HIGH SCHOOL	COLEY	TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS	AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL 5:30 IN THE LIBRARY
HSU LIBRARY	ELLIE	MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, & FRIDAYS BY REQUEST	3:30 – 5:00 (TUTORING UPON REQUEST; TRANSPORTATION TO HSU NOT PROVIDED)

## 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 haven 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.	<b>TUESDAYS:</b> MATH TO ALGEBRA II, ENGLISH, HISTORY, BIOLOGY, SPANISH I <b>THURSDAYS:</b> ALL MATH, ENGLISH, HISTORY, BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, ALL SPANISH
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## 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.

PACIFIC UNION JAN 10 - FEB 14	ALICE BIRNEY FEB 1 – MAR 29	ONCE A WEEK 6 WEEKS	CHILDCARE & SNACKS PROVIDED	NO CHARGE!
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## STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

TRIO WINTER ACADEMY FEBRUARY 19 <sup>TH</sup> -21 <sup>ST</sup> @ HSU (BY INVITATION ONLY)	NORTHCOAST YOUTH SUMMIT MARCH 18 <sup>TH</sup> @ COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS	<b>IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE NORTHCOAST YOUTH SUMMIT, CONTACT US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! (707) 826-4791</b>
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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.

# IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO START!

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 Columbia 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 HOPES 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.

## EUREKA HIGH SENIOR SURPRISED WITH \$1,500!

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 16<sup>th</sup>. He was encouraged to apply by his TRiO advisor, Elva Ortega.



## CALENDAR

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 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>: Winter Academy @ HSU; by invitation only; arrive noon on 2/19, depart 10am on 2/21  
**MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>: FAFSA FINAL DEADLINE**  
March 18<sup>th</sup>: Northcoast Youth Summit @ CR, 8am - 4pm

March 24<sup>th</sup>: Spring Preview @ HSU -and-  
April 7<sup>th</sup>: Spring Preview @ HSU  
April 7<sup>th</sup>: TRiO Transition Dinner @ HSU; for students attending HSU in the Fall; details TBA

**STAY TUNED:**

May 2017: TRiO Transition @ College of the Redwoods  
Summer 2017: Middle School Robotics Day Camp  
Summer 2017: High School University Day Camp



W I N T E R 2 0 1 7



# TRIO

T A L E N T S E A R C H

N E W S L E T T E R



Early College  
Access Team  
Humboldt & Del  
Norte Counties

TRiO Educational Talent Search is a pre-college program aiming to improve the academic strengths and college readiness of students in grades 6-12.

C O N T A C T U S :

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