

Summer 2017

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Director Farewell Letter

On February 21st, 2012, I joined the Brooklyn College Educational Talent Search Program as its' new Project Director. Filled with optimism and excitement, I embarked on a journey to fulfill my desires to help others. During my tenure, I learned from so many young people. I also was given the privilege to serve young people from all over Brooklyn. I took my responsibility to each of you very seriously, and hopefully you will find that BCESTP has grown into a valuable program.

I have learned many lessons from TRIO participants. I got to see your amazing efforts. I got to learn from you the personal challenges faced by young people and how victory went to the resilient. I got to experience the joy of accomplishment as many students graduate, moved on to the next grade, or simply got a desired score on a test. Thank. you. Thank you for sharing a piece of your life with me.

I wish you the best of luck. Never settle for less. Never believe you are not capable of more. Always find help, and if the first set of help isn't enough, then find more. Until we meet again.

Sincerely,

R. Clarke

Farewell Ms. Webster!

The Talent Search Program wishes Ms. Jennifer Webster a whole hearted congratulations on becoming a new member of the Brooklyn College Alumni Board. Ms. Webster has been a Pre-College Counselor with our program for nine years. With her caring, nurturing personality and dedication to seeing students achieve their fullest potential, Ms. Webster has been a source of inspiration to the staff as well as to students. We wish her the best in all her future endeavors!

TRIO Leaders



During Spring 2017, the TRIO Leaders have engaged in projects that exemplify the importance of building community, being mentors to their fellow peers and self improvement.

TRIO Senior Day

by Jada Zephyr

TRIO is a wonderful program that provides great services such as tutoring, trips to different colleges, and having mentors guide you on your journey throughout high school and into college. TRIO teaches young adults about the real world and opens doors, so you get insight on what life will be like after high school. This program should be in more schools. Students need the Talent Search Program to help them take those major steps in life.

For example, TRIO Senior Day was a great opportunity to see what college would be like. We spoke about mentoring, dreams, aspirations and how we would like to accomplish our goals. I made new friends, which helped me learn how to open up and not be so shy around new people. We spoke about finances, such as the concept of banking and the use of a credit card. We also spoke about the importance of and how to spend and save money. There were also prizes and giveaways. I had a great time and I believe every senior should get the chance to go this seminar.

In closing, they answered a lot of questions that I had about college and new experiences/trials that I may face while I'm moving on to do better with myself and my education. I thank the TRIO Talent Search Program for giving me the opportunity to better myself and help me figure out what I want for my future and how to go about getting it.



Financial Literacy Workshop



Leadership Workshop

Summer Enrichment Program 2017

For this year's Summer Program, the Educational Talent Search Program collaborated with the STEP Program. Students enrolled in both programs took part in a variety of courses such as Microbiology, Personal Finance, and SAT Prep. In the afternoons, the TRIO Counselors facilitated workshops that centered around academic advisement, healthy eating and creating board games. The Summer Program was a great way to cap off the end of a productive school year, while looking forward to a new one.



Lunch Debate Workshop



Creating board games with the Counselors



Male Group Workshop



Poetry Workshop

Male Empowerment Group at College Prep

The TRIO Man Ambassadors, which is the male empowerment group at College Prep spearheaded by Mr. Mohamed Kaba and Mr. Randall Clarke, teaches young males the importance of resolving conflicts, the meaning of leadership, and how to give back to your community. In this article, members of the TRIO Man Ambassadors share their views on conflict and what peace means to them.

Conflict:

Aggressive, two opposing sides, arguments, hatred, war/negative-ism ambitions.

Conflicts, to me, is violence that evolves from two opposing sides.

Matialdo Jean Louis

Violence, war, hatred, betrayal, disagreements

A conflict is a strong disagreement between two opposing sides, who argue about a certain/particular issue.

Kelvin Addo

Combat, competition, contradiction, war, winning and losing

Conflict is an event where disagreement occurs between two or more group and each group tries to down the opposing groups to represent themselves as best or right.

Rafiath Khan

Peace:

Freedom from opposing forces.

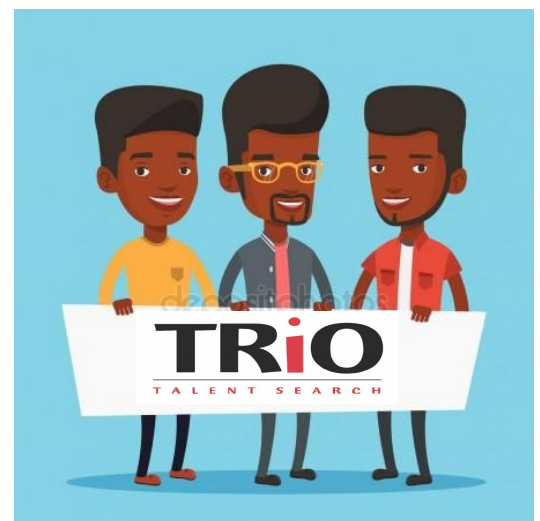
Peace, to me, is an occurrence of harmony resulting from a lack of violence or conflicts from fear of harm.

Matialdo Jean Louis

Happiness, understanding, harmony, love, agreements.

Peace is a strong bond or harmony, unity and understanding between two or more people in a neighborhood, society, community and country.

Kelvin Addo



Summer College Tour

Talent Search Participants attended a day tour featuring two universities: Seton Hall in New Jersey and Drexel in Pennsylvania. Below are some student responses to their overall experience of the tour.



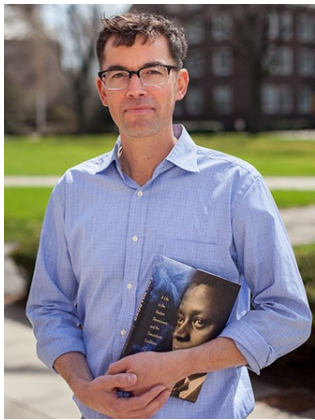
- What I like about Seton Hall University is the big space it has like the library and the church. They have weight training rooms, basketball rooms and others. Also, 98% of students get scholarships. The classrooms have lots of space and they have free busing for students.—S. Lin
- At Seton Hall, I liked that they provided transportation, internships, programs to study abroad, and the amount of scholarships provided.—R. Whittingham



- Drexel University has a lot of great majors that everyone can have access to, no matter their grades or background. Also, the students get loads of experience in the field of their choice.—X. Laws
- The thing that I most liked about Drexel is that they have a cultural variety of students. I also like that they have so many majors and the campus is huge. There are over 100 student clubs.—M. Raian

Interview with Professor James Davis, Part 2

What do you suggest high school students do to prepare themselves for this major?



I would recommend that you just read as widely as possible. It doesn't have to be Shakespeare every day. It can be graphic novels, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, or the latest thing that just came off the shelf. Just that encounter with words all the time is the most important thing to preparing yourself to study English. Even studying at an intro level, such as how to write an essay class, just that intake of text, narrative, you'll pick up the more cosmetic aspects of language such as usage and grammar that are taught. This stuff will come to you, as the depth of your exposure to languages expands.

What do you think is the biggest misconception that people have about majoring in English?

Kind of going back to what I was saying before, that English majors are the ones who want to go around and correct other people's grammar and that the only thing you can do with an English major is probably become a school teacher. There are a lot of great English school teachers, so that's not a bad thing. Being an English major, you cultivate a lot of really important skills that are transferable to many other things. You learn how to take a problem and turn it around in multiple directions like a prism and examine it from multiple points of view. It's the same way that you pick up a text and have a discussion about it and people in the room are approaching it from different angles, which raises different questions.

Regardless of the field, a lot of employers want people who can approach a challenging question, whatever it is, and try to analyze it from multiple perspectives and have a creative solution that takes into account other people's input. Those aren't easy skills to teach, but you cultivate those kind of skills in the process of being in a literature class. You learn a lot of writing and communication skills, which are really valuable, in terms of employers and different sectors of the industry. There's a lot of things as an English major that it's not just "Do you know who wrote this sonnet?" You're picking up a lot of skills along the way, researching, synthesizing ideas and information.

Besides teaching, what other careers/fields can an English major look into?

Definitely a field that does involve research, because English majors have to do that all of the time. They're assessing the value of sources of information that they come across, they're analyzing those sources for their validity, and their appropriateness to whatever the project is that they are working on. English majors can certainly go into fields like publishing and other fields that relate to books and language. There's lots of opportunities now in teaching, such as teaching adult learners, ESL, teaching abroad. We think of teaching as being one thing, but, in fact, there are many ways of using one's skills as an English major.

English majors can also go into careers such as Law. We're hearing about more and more people who are in med school and their advisors would tell them that while it's important to major in science, they should double major or have a minor in the Humanities, because it is attractive to admissions committees in medical schools and shows that you're not a one dimensional person. Being involved in the Humanities will help you develop other kinds of skills that are involved with being a doctor or lawyer, etc.