

Valdosta State University

EDUCATIONALTalent Search



2014
SPRING
NEWSLETTER

Our Mission

The mission of the Educational Talent Search Program is to enable targeted individuals to enhance their overall quality of life by providing comprehensive intervention of academic and career related services within available resources.

Educational Talent Search is 100% funded by the United States Department of Education and assists students who are underrepresented in post-secondary education, including first generation and low-income students. Our goal is to help these students see their potential to succeed in higher education and to help them better understand the opportunities they have.

What is Educational Talent Search?

The Talent Search program is a part of the federal TRIO programs which identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete their postsecondary education. The program publicizes the availability of financial aid and assists participants with the postsecondary application process. Talent Search also encourages persons who have not completed education programs at the secondary or postsecondary level to enter or reenter and complete postsecondary education. The goal of Talent Search is to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds to complete high school, and enroll in and complete their postsecondary education.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela



Eligibility

- Attend:
 - Valdosta High School
 - Valdosta Middle School
 - Newbern Middle School
 - Brooks County High School
 - Brooks County Middle School
- Be Enrolled in 6-12 Grades
- Be a U.S Citizen OR Resident Alien
- Be a Potential First Generation Student
- Meet Federal Low-Income Guidelines
- Have the Desire to Pursue a College Degree

Services

- Career Exploration
- Aptitude Tests
- College Prep Workshops
- Tutorial Services
- Financial Aid
- College Application Assistance
- and more!

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Greetings!

The ETS Staff is excited to have the opportunity to communicate with you through our newsletter. Although I am new to the VSU family (November 2013),

Educational Talent Search and similar Federal TRiO Programs have been a part of my life for over ten years. These programs have provided invaluable educational opportunities and resources since the mid-1960s.

As a first generation college student, I understand the obstacles and rewards of getting through high school and graduating from college. I realize genuine support and exposure is crucial to student success. My entire professional career has been devoted to fostering personal and academic growth in young people across South Georgia. I'm looking forward to working with the students, staff and families of the Brooks County and Valdosta City School Systems.

I'm optimistic about the New Year, as it presents the opportunity to restore hope and renew confidence in our abilities to achieve our goals. While it is the goal of ETS to provide the necessary resources to ensure student success; it is as equally important for students to take advantage of all opportunities provided. Commit the time you need to invest in yourself and your future; the ETS staff is here to help you!

Sincerely,

Ms. Holly Lawrence, Program Director
hmlawrence@valdosta.edu

ETS STAFF

I like working for the ETS TRiO program because I have the opportunity to make a difference. I am able to widen each student's horizon on post-secondary education with every college tour and workshop that our program provides.

- Chardonnay Watson, Program Coordinator
cfwatson@valdosta.edu



I love TRiO programs because I am able to reach students who were just like me; first

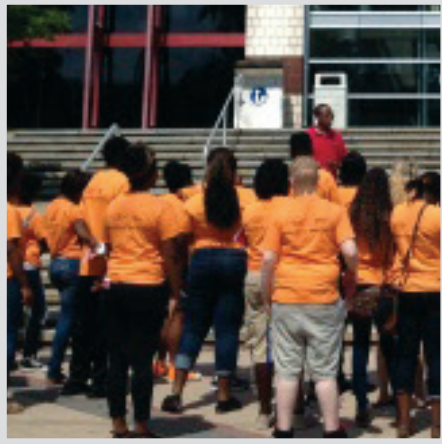
generation and low income. I am able to encourage them that they can succeed despite the challenges they face.

- Sade Miller, Academic Advisor
smiller@valdosta.edu



Workshop Highlights

Events & Cultural



Summer Camp 2013 Students at
Clark Atlanta University
June 21, 2013



Brooks County & Valdosta High
Students at Edward Waters College
July 8, 2013



Students at Fernbank Science
Museum in Atlanta, GA
June 21, 2013

Over the Past Year ETS Participants Have Visited the Following Colleges:

- Florida A&M University
- Valdosta State University
- Edward Waters College
- Savannah State University
- Jacksonville University
- University of Georgia
- Columbia University
- University of Central Florida
- Brooklyn College
- University of Florida

JL Newbern Middle School Students
at Columbia College in New York
June 27, 2013



Students and Staff in
New York City
June 28, 2013



Students with
Valdosta State University
Greek Life Members



SPRING 2014 PREVIEW

January

11 **ETS FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP - SENIORS** 10AM - 12PM
DISCUSS FINANCIAL AID, FAFSA, AND GEORGIA COLLEGE 411

24 **MS. MILLER - VMS WORKSHOP** 1:30PM - 2:30PM

February

6 **MS. MILLER - NEWBERN WORKSHOP** 8:30AM - 9:30AM

9 **MS. WATSON - BCMS WORKSHOP** 4:30PM - 5:30PM

10 **MS. WATSON - BCMS WORKSHOP** 4:30PM - 5:30PM

12 **MS. WATSON - BCMS WORKSHOP** 4:30PM - 5:30PM

13 **MS. MILLER - NEWBERN WORKSHOP** 8:30AM - 9:30AM

14 **MS. MILLER - VHS WORKSHOP** 9 - 9:30AM & 11:30AM - 2:45PM

21 **MS. WATSON - VECA WORKSHOP** 2PM - 2:55PM

21 **MS. MILLER - ADVISING VHS** 10AM - 11:15AM

22 **SATURDAY ACADEMY - MIDDLE SCHOOL** 9AM - 2PM
COLLEGE TOUR OF VSU, PLANETARIUM PRESENTATION, AND WORKSHOP

28 **MS. MILLER - VMS WORKSHOP** 1:30PM - 2:30PM

March

6 **MS. MILLER - NEWBERN WORKSHOP** 8:30AM - 9:30AM

7 **MS. MILLER - NEWBERN WORKSHOP** 8:30AM - 9:30AM

8 **ESSENTIAL SKILLS SATURDAY - HIGH SCHOOL** 9AM - 1PM
GET TIME MANAGEMENT, TEST TAKING AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

28 **MS. MILLER - VMS WORKSHOP** 1:30PM - 2:30PM

April 25 **MS. MILLER - VMS WORKSHOP** 1:30PM - 2:30PM

May 16 **MS. MILLER - VMS WORKSHOP** 1:30PM - 2:30PM

Star Students

Ju'Coby Grace

Brooks
County High
10th Grade
Recently made
a 22 on the
ACT. Wants to
be a lawyer.
Loves soccer
the color blue
and shrimp.



Jaylen Cannon

Newbern
Middle
8th Grade
Favorite subject
is science.
Would like to
study technology
in college.
Classmates
describe him as
a dedicated student who does not conform to peer
pressure. Jaylen currently had straight A's



Hannah Haskins

Valdosta
High School
12th Grade
Loves ETS
because of
the valuable
knowledge
given about
college
education.



Eric Smith

Valdosta
Early College
Academy
11th Grade
Loves football,
especially
Florida State.
Favorite subject
is science.
Wants to attend Mercer University.



Jerrell Woodson

Brooks County
Middle
8th Grade
Wants to attend
the University
of Alabama.
Favorite color is
black. Wants to
give back to his
community by
becoming a fire fighter.



Nikeya Gaskins

Valdosta
Middle
8th Grade
Wants to attend
Valdosta State
and become an
entrepreneur.
Loves science,
community
service and singing.



Steps To Be College Bound

6th - 8th Grade

- Career Exploration
- Choices Workshop
- College Awareness
- College Visits

9th Grade

- Transition to High School
- Meet Counselor
- Explore College Programs and Majors
- Set Short Term Goals
- Explore Extracurricular Activities
- Learn to Calculate GPA
- College Visits

11th Grade

- Contact with Counselor
- Obtain Test Dates
- Attend College Fairs
- College Visits
- Scholarship Searches
- Financial Aid Prep
- Take ACT / SAT

10th Grade

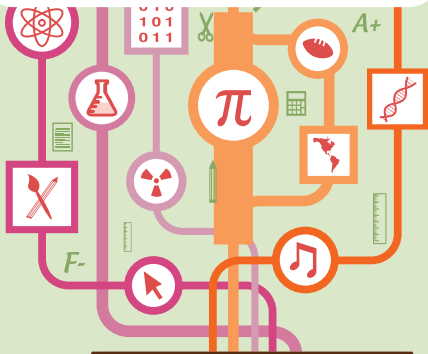
- Take PSTA
- Keep in Touch with Counselors
- Explore Colleges in Georgia and Nationwide
- Continue to Track GPA
- Get Involved

12th Grade

- Take SAT / ACT
- Complete FAFSA
- Apply for Scholarships
- Apply to Colleges
- Compare Acceptance Letters

Important Dates

- February 8, 2014
ACT TEST DATE
REGISTER BY JAN. 10
- March 8, 2014
SAT TEST DATE
REGISTER BY FEB. 7
- April 12, 2014
ACT TEST DATE
REGISTER BY MARCH 7
- June 14, 2014
ACT TEST DATE
REGISTER BY MAY 9



“Look forward to a bright future with Educational Talent Search!”

Tips for Middle School Parents

You may think it's too early to prepare your child for college, but it's never too early to prepare for your child's future. Grades 6th- 8th seem to be the hardest for students and parents, as children are growing up but yet still need parental guidance. Some helpful tips are:

- **Talk to your child about school**
- **Go to school meeting and events**
- **Check your child's homework, without doing it for them**



Tips for High School Parents

For high school parents the time has come to help your child get into college and prepare for their lives to come. Parents should do several things to help their children along the way.

- **Learn the recommended high school courses so that your child's college application can be competitive.**
- **Get information on college entrance exams early instead of waiting until junior and senior year.**
- **Allow your child to participate in extracurricular activities and enrichment programs. without doing it for them.**
- **Get an idea of what type of school your child is interested in to narrow college search and tours.**
- **Talk to school counselors and get help with admissions and financial aid processes.**
- **Explore all financial options including scholarships, grants and loans.**



Helpful Websites:

- www.gsfc.org
- www.discoveryeducation.com
- www.scholarshipexperts.com
- www.ed.goc/parents/landing.jhtml
- www.schoolfamily.com
- www.ed.go/ope/trio

*It is important that you know that in the state of Georgia for the HOPE scholarship beginning May 1, 2015 there will be some changes. Students are required to have a 3.0 GPA and also have at least two credit courses in rigorous classes. These courses include but are not limited to advanced math and science, AP courses and dual enrollment courses.

Senior Spotlight

Congratulations to our senior students who have already been accepted to college. Way to go Educational Talent Search participants!

Brooks County High School Students:

Malkom Parrish



University of Georgia



Andrew College

Adrianna Spencer



Andrews College

Armirica Hill



South Georgia State College



South Georgia
State College

Valdosta High School Students:

Alexis McCutchin



Georgia Southern University



GEORGIA
SOUTHERN
UNIVERSITY

Ambriya Bass



Johnson & Wales

Tineshia Davis



Johnson & Wales



JOHNSON & WALES
UNIVERSITY

Shakira Young



Abraham Baldwin
Agricultural College





Educational Talent Search

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TRiO

Educational Talent Search

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

EDUCATIONAL TRIVIA

Q: What is the science or study of plants?

Q: When was the mobile phone invented?

Q: Which planet has the largest moon:
Earth, Jupiter or Saturn?



Valdosta State University Educational Talent Search



@VSU_ETS



@ETS_AT_VSU