

Valdosta State University

EDUCATIONAL Talent Search

2014

Fall

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.

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement; nothing can be done without hope and confidence”

- Helen Keller



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
- and more!

Services

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

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Greetings!

Greetings and welcome to the Fall 2014 semester of the Valdosta State University, Educational Talent Search Program! As we enter this new school year it

is important that we strive for excellence in and out of the classroom. This is the best time for students to set new academic and personal goals, and to know that by managing your time, organizing, properly completing assignments, and applying yourself, you are on the path to success.

Whether you are a new or returning student, our program is here to support you in reaching your fullest potential. Student academic success, high school graduation, enrollment into a postsecondary institution and completion of a program of study is our main goal. The ETS program offers a variety of services, which include: Saturday Academy Sessions, workshops at target schools, career exploration, financial aid assistance, ACT/SAT prep, and opportunities for parent involvement.

Please take advantage of all these FREE services. The ETS staff is dedicated to helping our students succeed. So, suit up, show up and enjoy the ride that will lead you to college and beyond!

Sincerely,

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

ETS STAFF

How to be a SUCCESSFUL High School Student:

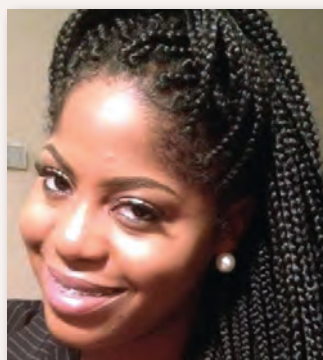
Being successful in high school comes with a lot of patience as well as motivation. However, there are so many distractions coming your way, sometimes it becomes hard to say no. It may



be hard during the school year, and also tiring, but the hard work ALWAYS pays off at the end. When you graduate you want to graduate with honors. So remember, becoming a successful student in high school will help you become successful in the future. Here are nifty tips to become a successful high school student:

1. Make good use of your agenda.
2. Stay organized.
3. Balance out your life between school & a social life.
4. Get involved at your school.
5. Begin your college process EARLY.

- **Chardonay Watson, Program Coordinator**
cfwatson@valdosta.edu



As your Academic Advisor, it is important for me to address the importance of staying focused. It is so easy to lose focus and get on the wrong track in life, but it's important that you know that what you do now sets the stage for your future. Develop good study habits so that when

you encounter a heavy workload you can handle it effectively. Research colleges and majors, it's never too early, to make sure you are in the appropriate classes that will set you apart from your competitors. Ask questions when you are having issues, the only silly questions are the ones not asked. I want you to have fun, make friends but don't lose focus of doing well in school and preparing for your future.

- **Sade Miller, Academic Advisor**, smmiller@valdosta.edu

Rising Freshman Transitional Program

We all know the transition from middle school to high school can be overwhelming and stressful for students. This summer our students received a head start by participating in our Rising Freshman Transitional Program, held at Valdosta State University. The week long, day program began June 16th with thirty-two students from Brooks County Middle and Valdosta City Middle Schools. Academic classes in English, Mathematics and Science were taught by certified teachers. Breakfast and lunch were provided to give students energy throughout the day. Students were also given life skills seminars taught by Valdosta State University professionals around campus. Dr. Peguesse and Terence Sullivan from the Student Success Center taught students about study skills to help them succeed in high school. The Counseling Center's Rebecca Smith and Sharon Bankhead gave an excellent presentation on peer pressure. Mark Williams discussed Drug and Alcohol Education. Lastly, Crystal Goode (Career Opportunities) promoted students to begin career exploration. Educational Talent Search alumni and rising seniors gave insight into high school life during a panel discussion for the transitional program. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about academics, class schedules and student involvement. Dr. Gerald Williams, Director of Career Opportunities, was a great motivational speaker for our rising freshmen to bring positive light to making good decisions. Tifton Southeastern Credit Union's, Joe Vines, spoke with students about the importance of saving at an early age. As you can see the students gained a wealth of knowledge. The program ended with an educational day trip to Jacksonville, Florida. Students toured the beautiful campus of Jacksonville University and explored Ripley's Believe it or Not.



**Summer
Highlights**

High School Summer Enrichment Program

The High School Summer Enrichment Program (July 14- July 19) was a huge success for The Educational Talent Search Program. Thirty-two students participated in this residential program. Classes on goal setting, writing/public speaking, and SAT/ACT prep were given. Students created vision boards to outline their future plans and also participated in daily debates to think critically and discuss global topics. Students experienced college life by staying on campus at Reade Hall and eating in Palms Dining Center daily. Valdosta State University professionals also helped out tremendously by giving personal growth seminars. Crystal Goode from Career Opportunities returned and helped students build resumes. Gwendolyn Williams (Counseling Center) discussed problem solving and coping skills. Students really enjoyed Sergeant Maestas, Valdosta State Police, being very open and honest about behavior policies on university campuses. Student Success Center's Terence Sullivan did a creative and fun activity "Visualize Your Path". Christopher Hill was the motivational speaker for our high school students, providing an excellent discussion to keep them motivated and on track for success. Courtney Gooding (Valdosta Southeastern Credit Union) discussed checking and savings accounts with our students, as well as not falling into the pitfalls of credit cards. Thom- asville Police Department came out in a major way. Sergeant Baggett, Sergeant Griffin and Sergeant Ford led a great presentation and discussion on the dangers of texting and drinking while driving. Students also had a weekend trip to Atlanta where they took a very informative tour of Georgia State University and also visited The Georgia Aquarium and World of Coke. We believe our summer programs were a success.



FALL 2014 PREVIEW

Educational Talent Search Saturday Academy Schedule

October

18 MIDDLE SCHOOL SATURDAY ACADEMY 10AM - 12PM
6TH THROUGH 8TH GRADERS

November

15 HIGH SCHOOL SATURDAY ACADEMY 10AM - 12PM
9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADERS

January

10 FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP 10AM - 12PM
11TH AND 12TH GRADERS

Additional dates for February to April 2015 will be sent via mail

2014-2015 TESTING DATES

SAT

Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014	Sept. 12	Sept. 26 - 30
Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014	October 9	Oct. 24 - 28
Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014	Nov. 6	Nov. 21 - 24
Saturday, Jan. 24, 2015	Dec. 29	Jan. 9 - 13
Saturday, March 14, 2015	Feb. 13	March 3 - 7
Saturday, May 2, 2015	April 6	April 17 - 21
Saturday, June 6, 2015	May 8	May 22 - 27

ACT

Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014	Sept. 19	Sept. 20 - Oct. 3
Saturday, Dec. 13, 2014	Nov. 7	Nov. 8-21
Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015	Jan. 9	Jan. 10-16
Saturday, April 18, 2015	March 13	March 14-27
Saturday, June 13, 2015	May 8	May 9-22

Star Students

Veronica Robinson

Brooks County High

12th Grade

- Favorite Color: Purple
- College She Wishes to Attend: Darton State College
- Favorite Sport: Cheerleading
- Role Model: Ms. Watson at Educational Talent Search
- What do you want to be when you grow up? An entrepreneur and own a hair salon.

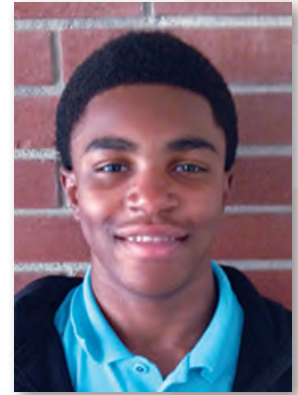


Stacey Grady

Valdosta Early College

Freshman

- Favorite Color: Black
- College He Wishes to Attend: Georgia Tech
- Favorite Sport: Football
- Role Model: His Mother, Chandra Strickland
- What do you want to be when you grow up? An Engineer



Justin Carter

Newbern Middle School

8th Grade

- Favorite Subject: Social Studies
- College He Wishes to Attend: Howard University
- Favorite Sport: Football
- Favorite Music: Old School Al Green
- What do you want to be when you grow up? Politician, Lawyer or Judge



Omar Blankumsee

Brooks County Middle

8th Grade

- Favorite Color: Blue
- College He Wishes to Attend: University of Georgia
- Favorite Sport: Football
- Role Model: Calvin Johnson (*receiver for Detroit Lions*)
- What do you want to be when you grow up? A Professional Athlete

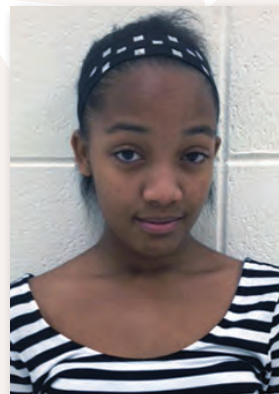


Alyesha House

Valdosta Middle School

8th Grade

- Favorite Color: Pink
- College She Wishes to Attend: Oklahoma or Stanford
- Favorite Subject: Math & Social Studies
- What do you want to be when you grow up? An Anesthesiologist



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Darius G. Jackson, Senior Valdosta High School Being a Part of the ETS Crew

What can I say about the Education Talent Search program, or ETS for short? ETS provides their college bound students the tool and pathways to form their road to college. The program, not only being driven by the ingenuity of its students, but it also being kept in place by the three main coordinators who are majorly qualified to run the program. First we have the program coordinator, Ms. Chardonnay Watson, she uses her vast knowledge of college life and experience to keep us asking questions about what a college can provide us socially as well as educationally. Ms. Watson's personality also contributes as well, her spontaneous a positive proclamation gives her students a sense of relief that college can be fun at the same time as knowledgeable at the college level. Next is Ms. Sade' Miller, the program advisor, who plays an important role in the program, her maturity and sophisticated outlook increases our minds by using the application of higher level thinking.

She monitors our activities, and gives her "real life" feedback, making her students think on a higher scale of choosing a college and solving how to gain more benefits when applying. Last but not least is the program director, Ms. Holly Lawrence, she loves to challenge us to make decisions and ask questions. She keeps the flow of knowledge, learning, and fun in full motion. She acts as all of our guides to where we are definitely heading in the near future. These three women are the main elements that are bonded chemically together to form the ETS program, without them, this program couldn't function properly as it does so well today.



“Allowing to partake in these activities not only gives us the feel of how college life is, but it also expands our horizons to new things and different cultures.”

The ETS program has already given us tidbits of knowledge on how college can be and how costly, by taking college tours in-state and out-of-state. These college tours give us a look at how a college actually works and operates, this being an exuberant way of helping their students apply to the college or maybe even colleges of their choice. ETS has also allowed us to live the college experience by letting their students on campus and taking college preparation classes. Allowing to partake in these activities not only gives us the feel of how college life is, but it also expands our horizons to new things and different cultures. Walking through historical museums, learning about the history of just one street can make our minds prosper and expand to the world around us, creating the art of wanting to learn more about the world. The ETS program

goes beyond and above when it comes to getting their students ready for the real world of college, as it is already known the Education Talent Search's students are college bound students and are ready for that four year university.

Graduation Highlights



The class of 2014 for Educational Talent Search was a huge success. We had thirty-seven students from Brooks County High School and Valdosta High School graduate and move on to bright careers and futures. Students have entered into a number of universities including Valdosta State, Savannah State and even University of Texas San Antonio. The ETS staff is very proud of you and wishes you much success in your future endeavors.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Educational Talent Search values the success of all of our students. The first step to success is a high school diploma. Here are the current graduation requirements for high school students in Georgia.

Current GEORGIA Graduation Rule for student entering the 9th grade in fall of 2008-2009 or later Areas of Study:	Credits
I. English/Language Arts.....	4
II. Math.....	4
III. *Science.....	4
IV. Social Studies.....	3
V. **Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE), and/or Modern Language/Latin, and/or Fine Arts.....	3
VI. Health & Physical Education.....	1
VII. Electives (4 units).....	4
TOTAL UNITS.....	23

*4th Science may be used to meet both the required science and required elective in CTAE sequence of courses (V)
 **Student must complete 3 units in a pathway to complete CTAE pathway and take end of pathway assessment;
 Student must complete 2 years of the same foreign language for admissions to Georgia Board of Regents colleges/universities.

Students are encouraged to go on gacollege411.org to view this and other important graduation information.

GAcollege411

Expand Your Opportunities

Georgia College 411 is an excellent tool for students and parents to use to help with middle school and high school preparation, career options, college planning and financial aid information. The site has different information about calculating your GPA, scholarship search and you can even create a portfolio to stay on top of your college admissions information to make applying a breeze. Visit www.gacollege411.org to get all the help you need to have a successful future.

GREAT NEWS!!

The Educational Talent Search Program is pleased to announce

FREE Tutoring Resources



<https://www.khanacademy.org/>



<https://learnzillion.com/>

ATTENTION SENIORS,

The Educational Talent Search staff realizes your senior year is very busy and can be overwhelming with the planning of your life after graduation. Don't worry, we are here to help! If you need assistance with college admissions process, financial aid and scholarship search please let us know. In addition to serving you at your target school, we will be available during Saturday Academy sessions (both middle and high school). Please make an appointment at least one week in advance with the ETS staff via phone call, email or verbal confirmation.

FALL PARENTS WORKSHOP

"Parents learn more about Youth"

On Saturday, August 23rd, the ETS program sponsored a workshop for parents to kick-off the academic year. Percy Chastang, Adolescent Health Coordinator of the South Health District 8-1 was the facilitator. The scope of the workshop was The Understanding Youth Culture: Perspectives in Raising Today's Teens is designed as an interactive seminar for parents to gather insight and understanding about popular youth culture. Youth subculture is defined and reflected through adolescent behavior involving music, language, clothing, social media and other societal constructs. The seminar sought to encourage parents to recognize the importance of identifying and respecting youth culture as a foundational aspect of their self-image, peer group selection, and academic achievement. One of the most meaningful activities during the session involved the speaker providing a historical overview of the adolescent trends, health risks and generational issues for each decade of the past century which compelled parents to develop more internal perspectives and compassion in parenting efforts. The ultimate goal and objective of the seminar was to enlighten parents that their children would most likely benefit much greater from balanced parenting approaches aimed at the mental, social, and physical development of their children.



The Parent's Corner

THE PARENT-TEACHER PARTNERSHIP

“A positive parent-teacher relationship helps your child feel good about school and be successful in school,” advises Diane Levin, Ph.D., professor of education at Wheelock College. “It demonstrates to your child that he can trust his teacher, because you do. This positive relationship makes a child feel like the important people in his life are working together.”

Communicating well is a key factor for making this relationship work. “Communication on both sides is extremely important,” notes teacher Susan Becker, M. Ed. “The parents need information about what and how their child is learning, and the teacher needs important feedback from the parent about the child’s academic and social development.”

But communicating effectively with a busy teacher, who may have up to 30 kids in a class, can be challenging. When’s the right time to talk — and when isn’t? How can you get her attention? What should you bring up with her with and what should be left alone? How do you create a relationship with someone you may only see a few times a year? And how do you do this without coming across like an overanxious pain in the you-know-what?

Try these strategies to build a positive relationship with your child’s teacher.

Approach this relationship with respect. Treat the teacher-parent-child relationship the way you would any really important one in your life. Create a problem-solving partnership, instead of confronting a teacher immediately with what’s wrong. “Meet with a teacher to brainstorm and collaborate ways to help your child, instead of delivering a lecture,” recommends Susan Becker, M. Ed.

Let your child develop his own relationship with the teacher. “This is one of the first relationships with an adult your child may have outside the family unit. If you take a back seat and let the relationship develop without much interference, a special bond may develop,” advises guidance counselor Linda Lendman. “For young children, the teacher-child relationship is a love relationship,” adds Michael Thompson, Ph.D. “In fact, it may be their first love relationship after their parents and it can be pretty powerful and wonderful.”

Try not to brag. Of course you think your child is brilliant, but bragging over her many accomplishments may send a message to the teacher that you think he may not be good enough to teach your child. “You don’t need to sell your child to the teacher,” notes Michael Thompson Ph.D., “you have to trust that your teacher will come to know what’s important herself. Telling a teacher that your child loves to read will thrill the teacher. But challenging your teacher with statements like ‘Susie read 70 books over the summer’ or ‘Matthew is a whiz at math,’ may backfire.”

Remember how you liked (or disliked) your teachers. Your experience at school is likely to affect your attitude toward your child’s teacher. “It’s important to leave your own baggage at the door, so you can talk about your child with the teacher (and not about you!)” adds Michael Thompson, Ph.D.



*Retrieved from: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/going-to-school/parent-involvement/parent-teacher-partnership/>



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TRiO

Educational Talent Search

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Did You Know?

Did you know most lipsticks contain fish scales...

An average person will spend 25 years sleeping....

The dot on top of the letter "i" is called a tittle.....



Valdosta State University Educational Talent Search



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