

Valdosta State University

EDUCATIONAL Talent Search



2015
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.

"I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better" — Maya Angelou

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



Hello ETS,

Fall 2015 semester is here! I hope you had a great summer and took time to reflect on how you can make the utmost of this new academic year!

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, Summer enrichment and opportunities for Parent involvement.

Please take advantage of all these FREE services. The ETS staff is dedicated to helping our students succeed and have planned a host of activities to keep you moving toward your goals. So, get on board, and enjoy the ride and let's make this a fantastic year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Holly Lawrence, Program Director

hmlawrence@valdosta.edu

ETS STAFF

In order for you to succeed, you have to believe in yourself and in your abilities. Here's a little story to help illustrate this idea. Two high school athletes are preparing to compete against each other. They are the same size,



and they have the same athletic abilities. Everyone assumes this will be an exciting match. The first athlete runs out, and he looks confident and says to himself, "I'm ready. I can do this." The second athlete appears, and he is slowly shuffling out with his head down and he says to himself, "I'm gonna get killed." Two athletes, same size, same abilities... Even before the competition begins, everyone knows who's going to win.

- **Chardonnay Watson, Program Coordinator**
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Don't Get Discouraged!

These are words we have all heard from friends and family members. Well Ms. Miller will like to be another person to utter these words to you. It is easy to look at past mistakes, mishaps

and disappointments and become overwhelmed or discouraged. If you continue to focus on the negative things of the past it will only hinder your future. So what you did not get a good grade last semester. This is a new school year to get better grades, score higher on the SAT and to have a positive attitude. Stay encouraged and let your light shine!

- **Sade Miller, Academic Advisor**
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College Tour Highlights

Spring Break College Tour 2015

Educational Talent Search 10th and 11th grade students from Brooks County Schools and Valdosta City Schools had a chance to attend several colleges in North and South Carolina during spring break. The tour, which took place March 30 – April 2, 2015, highlighted historic downtown Charleston, historically black universities Claflin and South Carolina State and the large university home of the tigers, Clemson. Students learned about enrollment requirements and scholarship opportunities. Furman University, a private institution in Greenville, SC was a highlight for our students. Students were able to see the similarities and differences that colleges and universities have to offer.



Senior Appreciation Tour



16 college bound seniors with high participation in the Educational Talent Search Program had the opportunity to go on an appreciation tour to Daytona Beach, Florida June 3-6, 2015. Students toured The University of Florida, Bethune Cookman University and Daytona State College. Students had a great time on the Manatee Boat Tour, Daytona International Speedway and experienced an Ohana Luau Show. Students also got to experience Angell and Phelps Chocolate Factory and see all of the various things you can dip in chocolate. All of these students will be enrolled in college Fall 2015! Congrats!

High School Summer Enrichment Program

On Sunday June 21, 2015 39 high school ETS participants moved on the campus of Valdosta State University to participate in our week long Summer Enrichment Program. Students took classes on writing and public speaking (Charleston Carter), career exploration (Barbara Cunningham) and S.T.E.M (Calvin Lucas). Students did mock interviews, learned about various avenues to their career choice and did fun science experiments.

Valdosta State University professionals and community partners helped out by participating in our mini career fair and speaking to the students on success and the importance of continuing their education. Percy Chastang, South Health District, did a great presentation on Health Education to inform our students on the importance of staying healthy at a young age by making good decisions. Malynda Dorsey, Development Officer, and Josh Rivers & Alex, VSU students, did Real Talk sessions with students to encourage them to stay on the right path in life. Students also got a chance to do community service at Second Harvest Food Bank and to do activities with VSU's CORE Outdoor thanks to WT Taylor and his team.

Students ended with a weekend trip to Tampa to visit the University of Tampa and the Florida Aquarium. Overall the summer enrichment program was a success.



End of Year Ceremony



During its annual end-of-year ceremony, the ETS Program at VSU recognized 22 underclassmen for outstanding participation and 39 graduating seniors — Kimberly Arnold, Shanae Brinson, Calvin Foster, Amber Head, Alana Hill, Shaquelia Hollis, Darius Jackson, Jateria Jenkins, Tamiya Lawrence, Timothy McClain, Chelsea McClary, DeMarcus Pickett, Marquez Rozier, Sharquez Rozier, Dominique Solo, Keizian Taylor, Danielle Wade, Jasmine White, and Maranda Williams from Valdosta High School; Kahlia Alexander, Jameel Brown, Adalis Calhoun, Sakinah Hill, Shiquan Hunter, Rashaun Inman, DeVontae Leary, Eric Smith, Aleshaia Wright, and Raylyn Youmans from Valdosta Early College Academy; and Zyesha Bivins, Zaquez Blankumsee, Brandon Brown, Jessica Daniels, Tynesha Flanders, Adrienne Johnson, Tavist Moblely, Veronica Robinson, Kenya Wade, and Bri’Ashia Wright from Brooks County High School. Carla C. Jordan, assistant director of VSU’s Office of Career Opportunities, served as the keynote speaker for the

event, encouraging the graduates to never give their “treasure away” and to stay in pursuit of their goals and dreams. The goal of the ETS Program at VSU is to increase high school graduation rates, as well as college enrollment and graduation rates, among first-generation and/ or low-income students attending Valdosta High School, Valdosta Early College Academy, Valdosta Middle School, J.L. Newbern Middle School, Brooks County High School, or Brooks County Middle School.

Lawrence noted that 38 of the graduating seniors in the ETS Program at VSU during the 2014-2015 academic year have gained acceptance into and plan to attend a technical college or university in the fall.

VSU’s ETS Program is one of 15 in Georgia and one of 466 nationwide.

Source: Jessica Pope, Communication Specialist VSU

Fall 2015 PREVIEW

Educational Talent Search Saturday Academy Schedule & Tour Schedule

September

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

October

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

November

7 GA TRIO STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ALL DAY
INVITE ONLY

ETS Staff will do workshops in schools throughout the semester

2014-2015 TESTING DATES

SAT

Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015	Sept. 3	Sept. 18 - 22
Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015	October 9	Oct. 23 - 27
Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015	Nov. 5	Nov. 20 - 23
Saturday, Jan. 23, 2016	Dec. 28	Jan. 8 - 12
Saturday, March 5, 2016	Feb. 5	Feb. 19 - 23
Saturday, May 7, 2016	April 8	April 22 - 26
Saturday, June 4, 2016	May 5	May 20 - 25

ACT

Test Dates	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015	Sept. 18	Sept. 19 - Oct. 2
Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015	Nov. 6	Nov. 7-20
Saturday, Feb. 6, 2016	Jan. 8	Jan. 9-15
Saturday, April 9, 2016	March 4	March 5-18
Saturday, June 11, 2016	May 6	May 7-20

Star Students

Alicia Grisson

Brooks County High

10th Grade

- Favorite Subject: Math
- College She Wishes to Attend: Valdosta State University
- Role Model: Mother, Margaret Grisson
- What do you want to be when you grow up? Radiologist Technician



William Hutcherson

Valdosta Early College

12th Grade

- College He Wishes to Attend: University of Georgia
- Favorite Subject: American Literature
- Role Model: Mother, Cheryl Hutcherson
- What do you want to be when you grow up? Architect



Dania Gibbs

Newbern Middle School

8th Grade

- Favorite Subject: Science
- College She Wishes to Attend: Georgia State
- Favorite Color: Blue
- What do you want to be when you grow up? ER Physician

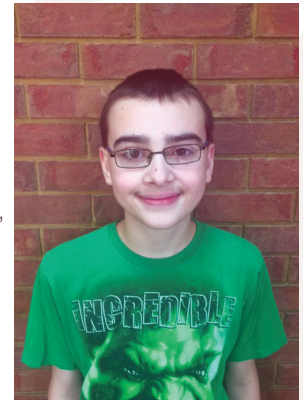


Indiana Renfroe

Brooks County Middle

7th Grade

- College He Wishes to Attend: University of Florida
- Favorite Subject: Social Studies
- Role Model: ELA Teacher at BCMS, Mr. Giddens
- What do you want to be when you grow up? Scientist



Aniyah Kelly

Valdosta Middle School

8th Grade

- Favorite Color: Blue
- College She Wishes to Attend: Undecided
- Favorite Subject: Social Studies
- What do you want to major in? Business and Law



Joel Wicker

Valdosta High School

12th Grade

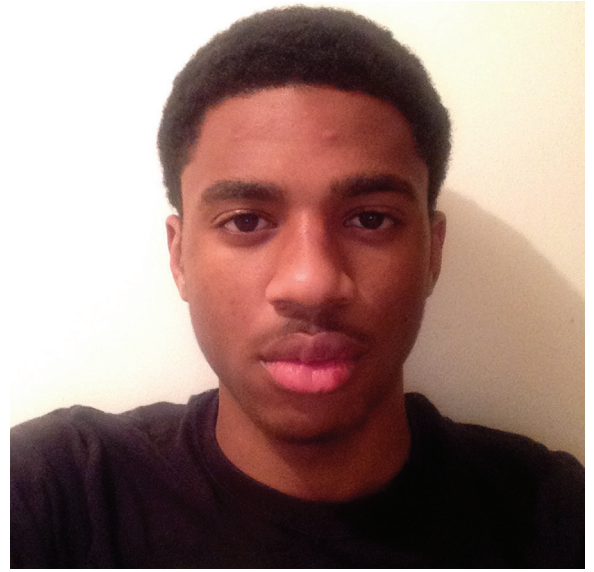
- Favorite Color: Red
- College He Wishes to Attend: Mercer University
- Favorite Subject: Math
- What do you want to major in? Computer Engineering



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Joshua Brown Senior, Brooks County High School

The ETS program has changed my life dramatically. Before enrolling into the ETS program I had no idea what I would do after high school or even if I would pursue post-secondary education. I had not even made a career plan or guideline. But now after seeing what college can do for me I've decided to major in physical therapy at Darton State University.



ETS Students Win GA TRiO Scholarship



Calvin Foster



Eric Smith

The Georgia Association of Special Programs Personnel (GA TRiO) scholarship competition was held in March 2015. Calvin Foster (VHS) and Eric Smith (VECA) competed with nearly 30 students in TRiO programs across Georgia for the Academic Scholarship. Only four students were awarded. Requirements included high academic achievement and student essay. Foster is a 2015 Freshman at Columbus State University and Smith will enroll into Valdosta State in the Spring.

10 Most Common High School Freshman Mistakes

- 1** **Believing your freshman year doesn't really count** and you can improve your grades later.
- 2** **Sacrificing your grades** for your social life.
- 3** **Skipping classes** and missing homework.
- 4** **Failing** to make up missed assignment.
- 5** **Assuming you're not doing well** because the teacher "just doesn't like you."
- 6** **Not signing up for** extracurricular activities.
- 7** **Deciding that highschool is about** dances, partying, and sports, not classes.
- 8** **Not asking** for help.
- 9** **Not asking questions** in class.
- 10** **Taking classes** because your friends are taking them

Your future is your responsibility, and you shouldn't let personal feelings interfere in your path to get the degree or career you want.



Make High School Count

The road to college really starts your freshman year. You'll stay ahead of the pack if you avoid these common mistakes freshmen make. Not all freshmen make these mistakes, but it's important to be aware of them so you don't hurt your school transcript or your grade point average (GPA).

Remember that your GPA means a lot when it comes to college admissions. The person in control of your education and your future is you, not your teachers, friends or parents. High school is an exciting, new and fun time, and you should definitely make the most of the experience. But remember that your senior year and college admissions will be upon you before you know it, and a little preparation early can go a long way. It's up to you to start planning for college now and working on keeping your GPA high and your transcript impressive.

Announcements

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.

ETS STUDENTS

Are you doing great things in your schools and the community? Let us know, you could be highlighted in the Spring Newsletter!

SATURDAY ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the school year ETS staff members work to put on outstanding Saturday Academies for our students. This year was no exception. We held both middle school and high school workshops for our participants. Middle school students get a chance to tour Valdosta State University, given by the admissions team, and view a show in the Planetarium thanks to Dr. Kenneth Rumstay. High School students always get essential workshops on SAT/ACT, study skills, goal setting and college admissions. We also collaborate with student organizations such as Deep Release Poetry Society and Greek Life to provide an extra element to the weekend workshops.

PROBE college fair

Students please take the opportunity to attend the Probe College Fair on October 26, 2015 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Valdosta High School. This event is open to all students in the area!



PARENTING:

Staying involved in your teenagers schooling

We all know how much a good education matters in today's world. But as our kids enter high school, many parents become less involved in their teen's education. As our teenagers become more independent, it's natural to expect them to learn responsibility by handling school work successfully or dealing with the consequences.



But while teenagers do need more freedom, it's not unusual for teens, especially those with busy schedules, to make poor decisions about time usage, often relegating school work to the bottom of the priority list.

As a parent of a teenager, it's great to encourage teen responsibility, but you also want to offer much needed guidance regarding time management and achieving school success. Staying involved in your teen's schooling can help achieve academic benefits and a stronger relationship with your child.

And how do you do this without being an overbearing parent? Start by taking an interest in your teen's classes. Encourage discussion of the school day and individual classes. Yes, starting such communication can be difficult. Often you'll hear only complaints or refusals to talk. But stick with it and offer positive, understanding feedback, rather than criticism.

It's also important to keep in contact with the school. Go to parents' nights, schedule teacher or counselor conferences when you have concerns, and pay attention to progress reports and test grades.

You can also help directly with time management. Offer your assistance in setting up a schedule that includes not only homework time, but also time for friends, sports and fun activities.

Setting clear, reasonable expectations for grades and schoolwork is also important. Talk with your teen about his or her goals, abilities, interests, classes and teachers, then make the final expectations a joint decision. Together decide on consequences if expectations aren't met, then monitor school progress. Let your teen know you're there to help with trouble spots, not just to criticize or punish.

Although most teenagers are desperate to be more independent and to make their own decisions, it's easy for teens to be overwhelmed at times by all the choices, responsibilities and consequences that come with that decision making.

Find ways to stay involved with your student's schooling while still supporting of his or her growing independence and you'll have a teen who will do better academically and may even appreciate your efforts, though it might be years before that's ever said out loud.



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TRiO

Educational Talent Search

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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media accounts below!



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