The Overall Goal of SDSU’s Talent Search Program is to enable 1516 low-income and potential first-generation college students to complete secondary school, meeting the requirements of a rigorous curriculum and to enroll in a post-secondary education program of their choice with financial aid.

In this newsletter, you will find a recapitulation of the events that SDSU Talent Search participated in during the 2017-2018 Academic Year. In addition, you will find demographic data of our student population and contact information for our Academic Advisors.
Who are we?
San Diego State University Talent Search is a program funded by the U.S. Department of Education to assist students in pursuing a post-secondary education. Talent Search is a FREE program open to eligible 9th-12th grade students at participating high schools. Contact your advisor today to see how Talent Search can help you!

What do we do?
- Help you choose the classes you need for college
- Career exploration
- In-class tutoring service provided by Pathways Office tutors
- Assist you with selecting/applying to university, college or vocational schools.
- Assist you with applying for financial aid, grants & scholarships
- Provide information on SAT/ACT tests, fee waivers & assist with registration
- Field trips to college campuses!
- Graduation sash when you are an active participant!

How do I join?
A completed application is required for participation. Though our program targets students from low-income households who are first generation in their families to pursue a college degree, up to 1/3 of our students do not meet these qualifications. A signed verification of your family’s income is needed for statistical purposes. This information is kept confidential and used only to meet U.S. Department of Education Regulations.

Participating Schools:
- **High schools**: Castle Park, Crawford, Hoover, Lincoln, Morse, Montgomery, O’Farrell and Southwest.
- **Middle schools**: Horace Mann, Monroe Clark, O’Farrell, Woodrow Wilson and Bell.

Contact Us:
If you have any questions or you would like a Talent Search Advisor to do a class presentation about college or university, feel free to contact us.
2016-2017 SDSU Pre-College Institute Talent Search Annual Performance Review

**STUDENTS SERVED**
- **856** Tutoring
- **33** Advising
- **404** Both

**OUR HIGH SCHOOLS**

**GENDER**
- **60%** Female
- **40%** Male

**INCOME & EDUCATION**
- **5.57%** Low Income
- **19.26%** 1st Generation
- **3.09%** Neither
- **72.08%** Low Income & 1st Generation

**GRADE LEVEL**

**ETHNICITY & RACE**
- **66.82%** Of our students identified themselves Hispanic or Latino.
- Non-Hispanic students identified themselves as African-American, Native-American, Asian, Pacific Islander, White or pertaining to two or more races.

**HOURS SPENT WITH STUDENTS**

1,777 hrs
In the 2016-2017 Academic Year.

**POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT**
- **86.91%** Of our seniors enrolled in a post-secondary institution in the fall semester after high school graduation.

**Most common colleges that our students enrolled:**
- San Diego State University (23)
- UC San Diego (14)
- Grossmont College (12)
- San Diego City College (30)
- San Diego Mesa College (13)
- Southwestern College (34)

**Other campuses include:**
- Academy of Arts, Cal Poly, CSU Bakersfield, CSU Chico, CSU Fresno, CSU Fullerton, CSU Monterey Bay, CSU San Marcos, Dixie State, Humboldt, LA Valley College, Mount Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame de Namur University, San Jose State, Miramar College, San Francisco State, UC Davis, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC Merced, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara, and UCLA.
FALL COLLEGE FIELD TRIP
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

SDSU Talent Search students had the opportunity to go on a college field trip to the University of California, Riverside on November 3rd, 2017. A total of 70 students, from our 8 participating high schools, participated in this event and experienced UCR’s Recreation Center and Residence Hall guided tours. We were glad to hear that after visiting this campus, some students applied and got accepted to UCR!

FINANCIAL AID NIGHTS
COLLABORATION WITH CAL-SOAP & HIGH SCHOOLS

In a collaborative effort to invite students and their families to understand college financial aid, the SDSU Pre-College Institute joined Cal-SOAP and high school staff members facilitating Financial Aid Nights. Both Talent Search and Upward Bound staff volunteer their time to provide guidance and support, translating the presentations and answering questions regarding financial aid and college applications.

COLLEGE APPLICATION SESSION
THANKSGIVING BREAK AT SDSU

The SDSU Pre-College Institute staff invited high school seniors to our SDSU office to help them finish their UC and CSU college applications before the November 30th deadline. During Thanksgiving break, our students had access to computers and individualized help from their advisors, who monitored their work and reviewed their applications before submission.

SDSU PCI Alumni Night
SDSU CONRAD PREBYS AZTEC STUDENT UNION

Considering that we had multiple alumni going to SDSU, we decided to host an event for them. We invited guest speakers and offered refreshments for students to socialize and connect with one another and learn more about SDSU student services.

Guest speakers represented the following organizations:

- Pathways Service Learning,
- Health Professions Advising Office,
- The Society for Human Resource Management,
- Aztec Racing Engineering Club and
- Career Services.

“Talent Search provided me so many resources and a support system that reassured my confidence in seeking higher education”
- Janus Perez,
Morse High School
TRiO Day Community Service
COLLABORATION WITH SDSU UPWARD BOUND

TRiO, our parent program, celebrated National TRiO Day on February 24th. To raise awareness and participate in a community service project, SDSU Upward Bound organized a Tree Planting Volunteering Activity at Chollas Creek, San Diego. Talent Search Volunteering students also participated in this event. Overall, students and supervising staff planted around 150 trees.

TALENT SEARCH GUIDED TOURS
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

The Talent Search staff has provided campus tours of San Diego State University, highlighting SDSU’s iconic buildings, history, student support services, college life and recreation areas. This year we guided tours for CSU Long Beach, UC Davis and Moreno Valley TRiO program students. In addition, we helped the O’Farrell High School with their yearly College Trip to SDSU. 150 students participated in this field trip.

COLLEGE SIGNING DAY
LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

“Talent search seems to be the only organization that has made a great impact on my decisions and actions. Because of them, I have more knowledge about college and feel very confident in my choices on what to in the near future”
-Enice Crews
Castle Park
High School

On May 1st, 2018 Lincoln High School along with the rest of the nation celebrated College Signing Day. SDSU Talent Search Academic Advisors Gerardo Chagolla and Anwar Sharif collaborated with other college access partners at Lincoln to plan this event. College Signing Day recognizes and celebrates that high school seniors have chosen and will attend a post-secondary education institution in the fall. Congrats Talent Search Hornets C/O 2018!
STEM² EXPLORATION DAY
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

On April 6th, 2018, the SDSU Pre-College Institute hosted a community engagement project: STEM² Exploration Day. A total of 187 High School students from 12 partner schools participated in this day-long event. As the name implies, STEM² Exploration Day focused on workshops, labs, presentations, student panels and hands-on activities related to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields. The Pre-College Institute partnered with SDSU professors, student organizations, community organizations, local businesses and subject matter experts to host the event. The implementation of STEM² Exploration Day served multiple purposes and allowed all stakeholders to benefit:

- **SDSU PCI**: opportunity to recruit student participants
- **Current SDSU Students**: showcase work & share experience
- **Student Organizations**: fulfill promise to community
- **Future Students**: learn from peer mentors & community
- **Professors**: showcase research, lab & learning opportunities
- **Partners**: share about program & hands-on activities

Each group of students experienced three hands-on workshops/activities and reunited towards the end of the day for a final STEM Majors and Careers presentation. Some of the presenters and activities included:

- **Planetarium**
- **Ocean Discovery Institute**
- **Computer Visualization Lab**
- **Chemistry Lab Tour**
- **Student Panel**
- **SACNAS at SDSU**
- **RP Oceans Lab**
- **Medlife**
- **Beta Alpha Psi**
- **STEM Workshop**

After announcing our efforts for this community engagement project to local media outlets, KPBS agreed to cover the event and feature content in their news segment.

“I think [diversity inclusion] is important because it tells us that its okay to be a minority and excel at life”

-Ashley Vega, Castle Park High School
SUMMER LEADERSHIP ACADEMY
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY TALENT SEARCH

Lincoln High School Talent Search Advisor, Anwar Shariff, introduced his innovative Summer Leadership Academy, an early outreach intervention for incoming 9th–12th graders at Lincoln High School and O’farrell Charter. The week-long camp took place at San Diego State University from August 15th to August 17th, 2018. Each day was constructed around a different theme of leadership: Self-Awareness, Honesty/Commitment, Communication, Vision and Courage/Discipline.

Our students participated in engaging team building activities, listened to motivating guest speakers and learned and practiced leadership skills that will help them increase their potential for academic success in the coming school year. While visiting SDSU’s historic campus, students had the opportunity to learn in a college classroom, explore the campus, make new friends and spend a day swimming and diving at SDSU’s Aquaplex to celebrate the conclusion of their program.

NEUROSCIENCE CAMP
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

During our STEM<sup>2</sup> Exploration Day, Dr. Mahasweta Sarkar presented our attendees with the opportunity to apply for her upcoming Neuroscience Camp. The highly selective 2-week summer program exposed students to neural engineering research, hands-on activities, college labs and classrooms while working with SDSU Professor Dr. Sarkar and her assistants. Only 10 students were selected for this competitive camp, and 4 out of the 10 were SDSU Talent Search Students. The camp took place at San Diego State University from July 9th to July 19th, 2018 and was completely FREE for the student participants. Toward the end of the program, each student had the opportunity to present their research, potential contributions to the neuroscience field, and their possible interest of study to the rest of the class.
DESTINATION: COLLEGE
SDSU PRE-COLLEGE INSTITUTE

For the third year in a row, the SDSU Pre-College Institute implemented Destination: College, a project designed to mitigate summer melt (when prospective college students fail to matriculate in the fall after high school graduation). The services we provide consist of:

- Proactive counselor outreach to students
- Text messaging campaign to students, identifying important summer tasks to complete (see examples to the right)

Destination: College is a collaborative effort within the SDSU Pre-College Institute. Four Talent Search Advisors and one Upward Bound Advisor reach out to “priority” students, who have been identified as being more likely to encounter obstacles when enrolling to college.

In 2018, 264 Talent Search and Upward Bound students received text messages/reminders regarding college matriculation. Out of those 264, 103 were “priority.”

Destination: College is a summer extension of our programs, since advisors worked with the students during the academic year, though Lincoln and O’Farrell High School graduating seniors not in our program also participated in the text message campaign (227 students).

DESTINATION: DEGREE
SDSU PRE-COLLEGE INSTITUTE

Beyond summer melt, students might face additional obstacles during their time in college, especially their first year. Destination: Degree is another SDSU Pre-College Institute initiative to support our students in their completion of their post-secondary education.

During Destination: College, advisors identified the priority students who might need additional guidance/help once in college. Our research assistant will reach out to these students during Destination: Degree, determining needs and issues to address, and creating protocols for following years.

“Talent Search has given me to numerous opportunities that I would not have been able to have. My advisor has kindly helped, counseled and guided me throughout my sophomore to senior year.”

-Cheri-Ann Inouye
Morse High School
Meet our Staff

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