The SDSU Pre-College Institute (PCI) promotes college access and completion for underserved students, implements innovative programs to enhance excellence in teaching and learning in multicultural settings, and studies their outcomes. Founded in 1983, by Executive Director, Dr. Cynthia Park, PCI provides an invaluable service to our communities’ multicultural low-income, underrepresented, and underserved students.

SDSU Talent Search is one of PCI's programs and its overall goal 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 description of the events that SDSU Talent Search offered during the 2018-2019 academic year. In addition, you will find demographic data of our student population, a brief history of the Talent Search Program, and contact information for our Academic Advisors.
SDSU Talent Search

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 provided by Pathways 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 for active participants!

How do I join?
A completed application is required for participation. Though our program targets students from low-income households who are the first 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 reporting 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.
2017-2018 SDSU Pre-College Institute Talent Search Annual Performance Review

1525 TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED

- 1068 Tutoring
- 375 Advising
- 116 STEM Day
- 206 Destination: College

GENDER

- 59% Female
- 41% Male

INCOME & EDUCATION

- 16.33% 1st Generation
- 71.87% Low Income & 1st Generation
- 4.59% Low Income
- 7.21% Neither

GRADE LEVEL

Grade level distribution of student participants

ETHNICITY & RACE

We serve a multicultural student population representing local communities.

Our project participants identified themselves by the following categories:

- 17.6% Asian
- 62.56% Hispanic or Latino
- 9.64% African-American
- 17.6% Native American
- 0.33% Other
- 4.00% Pacific Islander
- 2.23% Unknown
- 1.84% White

OUR HIGH SCHOOLS

Student participants per high school.

Most common colleges that our students enrolled:
- UC Los Angeles, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara,
- San Diego State University, CSU San Marcos,
- San Diego City College, Mesa College, Southwestern College, Grossmont College, and Cuyamaca College.

Other campuses include:
- Stanford, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, UC Riverside, CSU Chico, CSU San Bernadino,
- Humboldt State, San Francisco State, San Jose State,
- Sonoma State, University of San Diego, University of La Verne,
- Clarke University, Eastern Washington University,
- Grand Canyon University, Dixie State, Harris Stowe State,
- Miramar College, and Santa Monica College, among others.

POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT

88.89%

Of our seniors enrolled in a post-secondary institution in the fall semester after high school graduation.

“In any given [Talent Search] project, two-thirds of the participants must be students who are low-income and potential first-generation college students” (U.S. Department of Education)
FALL COLLEGE FIELD TRIP
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

SDSU Talent Search students had the opportunity to go on a college field trip to the University of California, San Diego on October 23rd, 2018. A total of 125 students from our 8 participating high schools participated in this event and experienced UCSD’s campus tour and scavenger hunt lead by Triton Tours and UCSD’s Student Support Services. After visiting this campus, Talent Search students applied and were accepted to UCSD!

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 volunteered their time to provide guidance and support, translating the presentations and answering questions regarding financial aid and college applications.

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 Community Service Day with Ocean Discovery Institute. SDSU Talent Search and UCSD Upward Bound students also participated in this event. Teams of students and supervising staff planted vegetables in the garden, and cleaned the canyon and the facilities.

“Talent Search has helped me in ways I never knew I needed. They gave me advice on the things one needs to know about getting into college”
-Talent Search Student
In May and June, SDSU Talent Search Advisors organize their final group meeting of the academic year and celebrate the upcoming graduates. Advisors provide seniors with a Talent Search graduation sash and a certificate highlighting their involvement and active participation in the program.

As part of this end of year celebration, students enjoy snacks and/or lunch, participate in raffles and listen to a presentation by their Advisor regarding summer tips, important deadlines and steps to successfully enroll in college, among other topics.

"Students who strive for success should join Talent Search because it prepares you with helpful information about college. The program will help you with any problem you might come across during the [college application] process”
-Miguel Marmolejo
Morse High School

CONGRATS CLASS OF 2019!!
STEM EXPLORATION DAY
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
On March 15th, 2019, the SDSU Pre-College Institute hosted a community engagement project: STEM Exploration Day. SDSU’s Interim Provost, Dr. Joseph Johnson delivered the Keynote Address. A total of 266 High School students from 12 partner schools participated in this day-long event. As the name implies, STEM 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 STEM 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
- Financial Literacy
- Life Science Alive
- STEM Majors and Careers
- Physical Therapy
- Experimental Theatre
- A Day in the Life of a Marine Biologist
- Biochemistry
- Hip Hop Math
- Cyber Security
- Neuroengineering

"What interested me about the [presenters] is the encouragement they gave us to succeed and show us the experience of others, life in college and picking majors/careers"

-STEM Exploration Day Attendee

The Pre-College Institute was recognized by the Council of the City of San Diego and March 15th of 2019 was proclaimed PCI SDSU STEM Exploration Day in the City of San Diego.

SAVE THE DATE: 11/8/19 STEM EXPLORATION DAY!
For the second consecutive year, SDSU Talent Search hosted the Summer Leadership Academy, an early outreach intervention for incoming 9th-12th graders at Lincoln and O’Farrell Charter High Schools. The week-long camp took place at San Diego State University from August 12th to August 16th, 2019. This year, SLA emphasized S.M.A.R.T. goal setting and how to utilize the 3 Rs (Resources, Relationships and Research) to accomplish them. 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 upcoming school year.

While visiting SDSU’s historic campus, students had the opportunity to learn in a college classroom, explore the campus/dorms/dining hall, make new friends and spend a day swimming at SDSU’s Aquaplex to celebrate the conclusion of their program.

YSP-REACH is a program through the Center for Neurotechnology, a National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center headquartered at University of Washington, with MIT and SDSU as core partners. SDSU professor, Dr. Mahasweta Sarkar, is the center’s co-director of education, and partnered with the SDSU Talent Search to connect with talented young scholars from local high schools. This highly selective 2-week summer program exposed 10 students to neural engineering research, hands-on activities, and visits to SDSU college labs and classrooms. The camp took place at SDSU and was completely FREE for the student participants. 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 fourth 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 2019, 153 Talent Search and Upward Bound students received text messages/reminders regarding college matriculation. Out of those 153, 101 were "priority". Destination: College is a summer extension of our programs, since Advisors worked with the students during the academic year. Lincoln High School graduating seniors not in our program also participated in the text message campaign (29 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 the completion of their post-secondary education.

During Destination: College, Advisors identified the priority students who might need additional assistance 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.

“What I like the most about the program is the effort made by the college advisor to connect with us and build a relationship with the pure intention of helping”

-Talent Search Student
LUKE THAI, CRAWFORD HIGH
EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH

Luke is a senior Talent Search student from Crawford High School. This summer, he participated in the YSP-REACH program where he learned how to use MRI machines, coding, and prosthetics. Using Google Doodle, Luke created a drawing of his high school campus, and with the help of one of our Advisors, crafted a list of tips and advice for his classmates on how to achieve academic success. He also sought out membership in his high school AVID class so that he could tutor his peers in calculus.

PRISCILLA FIGUEROA, LINCOLN HIGH
TALENT SEARCH MENTORING

Priscilla is a senior at Lincoln High School. She joined Talent Search in her sophomore year and has been very active! She attended the Summer Leadership Academy for two years, STEM Exploration Day and this summer’s Neuroscience Camp (YSP-Reach). Her research project explored prototypes that would allow people with neurological disorders to better translate different modes of communication. She plans to major in Criminal Justice in college.

THE HISTORY OF TALENT SEARCH

In the early sixties, the national poverty rate was about 19%. U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson believed in expanding the federal government’s roles in education and health care as a poverty reduction strategy.

The U.S. Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and Upward Bound was created. A year later, the Higher Ed. Act created the Talent Search Program and in 1968, Students Support Services became the third in a series of educational opportunity programs. The term TRiO was coined to describe these three federal programs.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 was signed on November 8th, 1965. It created grants, loans and other programs to help students acquire post-secondary education. One of those grants, was the Talent Search Program. Initially, Talent Search identified students with high potential or talent for higher education (hence the name) and provided short term assistance with financial aid and college application forms. However, students had greater needs, and Talent Search expanded to provide supplemental college preparation to those who requested services.

CONNECT WITH US:

Visit our social media to get reminders and see your pictures!

Search for scholarships, volunteer opportunities and more!

TO CONTACT YOUR ADVISOR SEE THE NEXT PAGE
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