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Since 1965 the U.S. Department of Education has been funding Talent Search programs ACROSS THE NATION to help First-Generation college students prepare for & enter post-secondary programs (technical schools, 2-yr community colleges or 4-yr universities) after high school graduation. This means that for over 5 decades, hundreds of thousands of students (and their families) have been positively impacted by Talent Search programs and their lives have been forever changed.

Currently there are 530 TS programs funded in the U.S. NSU is incredibly fortunate to have TWO Talent Search programs funded. Together our 2 programs work with 1,000 students in grades 8-12 in 17 area high schools. Everyday our Nationally Recognized ETS Program is helping students achieve their college and career dreams!



**College  
Campus Visits**



**Summer  
Mini-Camps**



**Sweet Senior  
Send-Off**

Thank you for everything you do. I can't even begin to tell you what you've done for our family. We truly love you.

– ETS Alumni Luke Tyler



**TRIO**



@nsuets





# STAFF

## The New Wave of NSU-ETS!!

On Sept 1, 2021 the two NSU-ETS Programs began their 1st year of a new 5-yr funding cycle (this means we have funding until Aug 31, 2026). Little by little, Liz Cotrill, NSU-TQ Assistant Director and Diane Walker, ETS Director, filled the open staff positions in between monthly workshops, school visits, FAFSA nights & ETS events. By mid-September, Sara Ryals joined the team as the NSU-BA ETS Assistant Director. Before Christmas Break, we brought Matt Lee on board as the NSU-TQ ETS Success Coordinator. And in late April, the final piece of our puzzle was in place when James Cole jumped into the mix as the NSU-BA ETS Success Coordinator. We not only had new staff members, we also began serving students in a few new schools (A Big Welcome to Bristow, Claremore & Skiatook)! And as summer camps began, we brought new ETS Alumni Mentors on to our team.

**"Happiness Comes in Waves!"**

## ETS Champions

**1. Alaiah Barrows - Jay** - She will be attending Northeastern State University on the Honor Scholarship. This scholarship requires at least a 3.5 GPA and at least a 28 on your ACT. She is also receiving \$200 from our ODSA state TRIO scholarship (Oklahoma of Division of Student Assistance).

**2. Asia Lee-Tahlequah** - Asia attended our first ever "Sweet Senior Send-Off" where we celebrated her awesome accomplishments. She will be attending Oklahoma State University in Stillwater on the Hagan Scholarship. The Hagan scholarship is a nationwide merit scholarship to help students graduate college debt-free. During her high school career she also took advantage of NSU concurrent classes and will have her first year already completed when stepping foot onto OSU's campus.

**3. Jonathan Menzel - Inola** - Jonathan was an active ETS member & made the trip to NASA Space Camp with us in June 2021. He will be attending Columbia State University in the City of New York on the Columbia Grant along with numerous scholarships such as the United States Senate Youth Program and Oklahoma Academic All-State Scholarship. Jonathan is a recipient of our \$750 SWASAP TRIO regional organization scholarship (Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs). He will be pursuing his Bachelor's in political science.

**4. Kenlee Jernegan - Sapulpa** - Kenlee attended every ETS meeting her senior year and was an outstanding student. She checked in often and utilized ETS resources. Kenlee is a Bartlett scholar and has received many other scholarships, paying her entire balance to the University of Tulsa. In the fall she is pursuing a double major in accelerated business and law. Following her time in college, Kenlee plans to be a corporate lawyer.

**5. Haley Langston - Depew** - She was an avid spokesperson for ETS in her school and community. Haley was extremely involved and took as many opportunities as the program would offer her. She is an exceptional networker, using her skills to mingle with representatives at the state capital during Oklahoma TRIO Day. Haley is currently serving in the National Guard and is at boot camp where she is a squad leader and top soldier. She has deferred her enrollment at Southwestern Oklahoma State University to spring 2023 where 100 percent of her tuition will be waived through her service in the National Guard.

**6. Alexa Farris - Sapulpa** - She was very involved in ETS, attending as many workshops as possible. In her senior year she was chosen as a National Merit Finalist. She is attending Oklahoma State University in the fall to study computer science. She hopes to have a career that helps students get involved with STEM.





# Senior Send-Off Celebration

In an effort to celebrate our graduating seniors AND pump them full of confidence, the ETS staff hosted the first ever "Sweet Senior Send-Offs". NSU-TQ ETS grads were celebrated in April & our NSU-BA ETS grads were celebrated in May. The seniors that joined us for this celebration were treated to a "highlight" video of their college destinations & financial aid packages (which included some very impressive scholarships), educational resources, an inspirational certificate and the extremely coveted "ETS TRIO Stole" made special by the ETS staff! We know this event will grow bigger every year as we send-off our graduates into the next chapter of their lives!

From the ETS TRIO Family to the Class of 2022 - Make the Most of Your New Adventure

*"CATCH A WAVE + YOU'RE SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD!"*



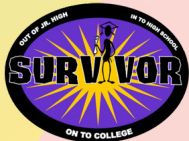




# Leadership Summit

Summer 2022 began with The Learning & Leadership Summit! 28 "rising sophomores" surfed into camp to enhance their leadership skills, construct Lego Men, make campus tour Tik Toks, solve riddles & discover their leadership style!

"I Don't Want to be a Follower; I Want to be a Leader and Create New Waves!"



# High School Survivor

Rubber Chickens, Red Solo Cups, PVC Pipes, Pink Slime, Fanny Packs, Flags & a ton of fun! The members of the Katar, Himma & Muzakkarin tribes earned reward money working together successfully on a variety of challenges. They impressed everyone at the Awards Dinner with their walk-out songs, chants & choreography.

**"No Matter How Hard the Waves Are,  
You Will Float on the Ocean!"**







# Career Camp

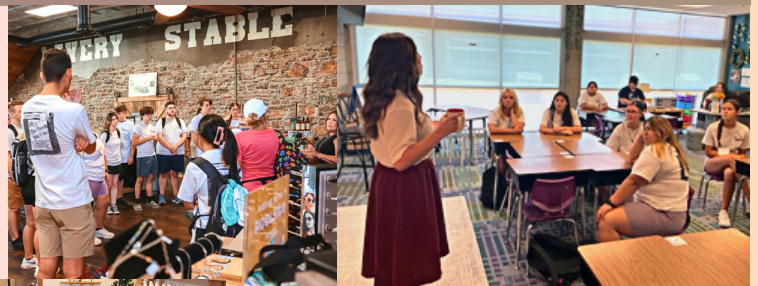


ETS Mini-Buses traveled the streets of Tahlequah - "oh, the places our ETS students can go!" It was a tsunami of entrepreneurs, engineers, firefighters, policemen, med students, educators & more. In between these visits, students

did partner research, created presentation boards & hosted a career fair.

Evening activities included painting ceramics & tie dying t-shirts!

**"Life is a series of waves to be embraced & overcome!"**



# College Encounter

These "rising seniors" swelled with pride as they marked tasks off their "to do" lists for college entry. At the end of the 3 day camp they had drafted a scholarship resume, created their FSA ID, toured 2 campuses, registered for the ACT, navigated college websites & spoke like college recruiters. This was our 1st group to do a "Paint Pouring"

Class & each student created 2 canvases.

**"In High Seas or in Low Seas, I'm Gonna be Your Friend;  
In High Tide or in Low Tide, I'll be by Your Side!"**





# DALLAS & WACO COLLEGE & CULTURAL TRIP

THE BIG KAHUNA!!! DALLAS!! AND JUST LIKE THE SAYING, EVERYTHING IS BIGGER IN TEXAS!! FOR 3 DAYS, THIS GROUP TOOK IN A VARIETY OF CULTURAL EXPERIENCES & SOME COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE. THEY EVEN TOOK A DAY TRIP DOWN TO WACO TO TOUR BAYLOR AND LOOKED AROUND THE SILOS FOR CHIP & JOANNA GAINES. THEY LOVED THE MEDIEVAL DINNER SHOW, WERE IN AWE DURING THEIR FIRST TRIP THROUGH AN IKEA & FELT A RUSH MAKING A STOP AT BUC-EES. THIS ANNUAL TRIP IS ALWAYS NON-STOP EXCITEMENT & FUN!

**"Sometimes, You Just Have To Go With The Waves!"**



**WHERE  
ARE  
THEY  
NOW?**



In April, the ETS Staff attended the State TRIO Conference in Durant & discovered that TWO of our ETS Alums from KANSAS HS (pictured on the left) were now working for TRIO Programs!!

**Paula Lor**, Kansas HS 2014, is the Coordinator for OSU Talent Search. While at OSU, she was a participant in the Student Support Services TRIO Program. She earned her BS degree in Finance & is currently pursuing a MBA in Management & Leadership through Southern New Hampshire University. Her most outstanding memory of her time with NSU-ETS is the OSU Campus Tour!

**Rhianna Chesser**, Kansas HS 2016, is the Academic Coordinator for the Upward Bound Math/Science TRIO Program at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. She earned her Bachelors in Accounting & began working for TRIO the week of the conference!! Her favorite NSU-ETS memory is attending The College Encounter. She remembers the Etiquette Dinner, staying the night in the Farmhouse fraternity house & staying up late with the other students, bonding & talking about life.

We are incredibly proud of these two amazing young women - they are two awesome TRIO Success Stories! And, we love that they are giving back to TRIO!!



# CAMPUS TOURS

Catching the campus tour wave is always a top priority every year for our students. Back in the fall, the ETS staff took tour groups to NSU HS TRIO Day & UCO HS TRIO Day! In the spring, those charters hit the road to RSU, OSU-IT, NEO, UofA and OSU! Another one of our road trips took us to the State Capital in OKC to celebrate State TRIO Day and on to a College Fair in the UCO Boathouse. It's a great day when every seat's taken on the ETS bus!

**"You Can't Stop the Waves, But You Can Learn to Surf!"**





Let me begin with this....**"You Become an Inspirational Leader When You Have the Humility to Build a Team with People More Talented Than You!"** For 8 months (Sept 21 - Apr 22), I was very intentional on who Liz & I would hire to fill the open ETS staff positions. My goal was to assemble the perfect combination of skills, strengths & personalities for the ETS team. Having been the director of the NSU-ETS TRIO Programs for 20 years, I learned long ago that it is **vital for me** to have coworkers that can do all the things I am not capable of doing. It is **vital for the program** that I have staff who are current, relevant and approachable. I have prided myself on building a successful program that provides THE best opportunities & experiences for our students. When I said (on the front page) that we are a "Nationally Recognized" program, I truly mean that! With all of that being said, I know my strengths and I also know my weaknesses. Liz Cotrill, Sara Ryals, Matt Lee & James Cole are *that* perfect combination of skills, strengths & personality to make the NSU-ETS TRIO Team a "Dream Team"....a force to be reckoned with....the ultimate representation of TRIO Works! Our 1,000 ETS students are in the BEST hands possible!

One of the things that makes our programs so great is that we are always up-to-date on *all things college*. We are constantly reading materials, checking websites & making phone calls to make sure we are always providing accurate information. Here are a few important pieces of information we want to share with you...

- 1) **ACT** - The cost of taking the ACT has increased to \$63 (without the writing section), and the cost of the Test Information Release has increased to \$25. The high schools will be giving the ACT to all juniors in April & the state will be paying the test fee, so make sure your student is there to take advantage of this FREE ACT opportunity. And don't forget each ETS student can use a maximum of 4 ACT Fee Waivers to cover the test fees.
- 2) **OK Promise** - Beginning this year, the income eligibility levels have increased depending on the number of children in the home. 1-2 Dependent Children - \$60,000; 3-4 Dependent Children - \$70,000; 5 or More Dependent Children - \$80,000. As long as the parent's federal adjusted gross income does not exceed these levels, students will be eligible for OK Promise. Students need to apply for OK Promise BEFORE the end of their Junior Year.
- 3) **FAFSA** - US Legislators voted to increase the amount of the federal PELL grant for the 2022-2023 school year. If a student attending college in Fall 2022 & Spring 2023 submits their FAFSA & has an EFC between 0-6207, they will receive some amount of PELL Grant. If the student's EFC is 0, they will receive the MAXIMUM PELL AMOUNT of \$6,895, and if the student's EFC is 6207, they will receive the MINIMUM PELL AMOUNT of \$692. Any EFC # within that range will receive some amount of PELL Grant for the 2022-2023 academic year!

Another unique and special thing about the NSU-ETS TRIO Programs are our Summer Mini-Camps. Not all Talent Search programs across the nation provide summer programming....***BUT, we do.*** These 2-day/1-night or 3-day/2-night events are truly the **BEST** Days a student can have in ETS! We create a positive, safe & highly encouraging space for our students to step out of their comfort zones & flourish. We have designed a curriculum that is just the perfect mix of educational experiences & fun activities. This past summer, 99 students took advantage of the camp opportunity, and for some of them, ETS camp was the "highlight" of their summer. The pictures from camp are a testimony to the fact that NSU-ETS Rocks! (Go to our Facebook page to see our Summer Mini-Camp Videos created by our very own Matt Lee!!)

Proud ETS Director Moment....Pictured on the bottom left is Dawsyn Smith on the day of his White Coat Ceremony at OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dawsyn is starting med school this month & we are beaming with pride (right along with Sydney, his beautiful wife)! Dawsyn came through our ETS program at Depew & completed his bachelors at NSU while being a RISE Scholarship recipient. Dawsyn is a TRIO Success Story! He is THE reason why we do what we do!

As for the New Wave of NSU-ETS, you can find it throughout this newsletter. It begins with a staff of 4 amazingly talented humans who have the heart for helping students. It also involves a group of ETS Alumni Mentors who work by our side during the school year as Office Assistants & by our side throughout the summer to mentor our camp participants. I am blessed to work *every day* with these TRIO Champions. And we are all blessed to work with our students to prepare them for their college journey and career goals!

Post your Fridge Facts at home! Follow/Like our Educational Talent Search-NSU Facebook Page as well as our other social media platforms. And remember, we are always just a call, text or email away. **TRIO WORKS!!!**

