

# Educational Talent Search Times

November 2023

Funded through the US Department of Education

Volume 27 Issue 2

**TRIO**  
Educational Talent Search



## Talent Search Office Staff UVU Campus

### TRIO Director

Dr. Michael M. Campbell  
Email: [mcampbell@uvu.edu](mailto:mcampbell@uvu.edu)  
Phone: 801-863-8569

### Coordinator

Paul Belvin, M.A.  
Email: [paul.belvin@uvu.edu](mailto:paul.belvin@uvu.edu)  
Phone: 801-863-8570

### Administrative Assistant

Kasha Farmer  
Email: [kfarmer@uvu.edu](mailto:kfarmer@uvu.edu)  
Phone: 801-863-7414



### **We are actively recruiting students at all of our locations!!**

If you know of a 7th-12th grade student who needs help navigating their path forward, contact the advisor at your school.

You can find more information and apply online by scanning this QR code or going to <https://uvu.edu/trio/ets/>



## FROM THE COORDINATOR



Hello TRIO Talent Search Students & Parents!

This November, we are proud of the remarkable strides our program is taking to empower students in their academic journey. Our senior class recently embarked on an enriching college tour where we toured 6 universities in 3 days, a significant milestone in their path toward higher education. This eye-opening experience allowed them to explore campuses and envision the next chapter of their academic adventure. Parents, your support has been invaluable in making this trip a success, and we look forward to witnessing the positive impact it will have on our seniors' college choices. You can view pictures of the tour on the following pages.

In addition to this exciting news, we are delighted to introduce Olivia Thornock as the newest addition to our advisory team. Olivia brings a wealth of expertise and passion for student success, enhancing our commitment to providing top notch guidance. She will be advising our students at Timpanogos and Rocky Mountain Middle Schools.

From 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, our advising activities continue to flourish, offering personalized support to every student. Through workshops, career exploration sessions, and one-on-one mentoring, our dedicated team ensures that each participant is equipped with the tools they need to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially to prepare for their future endeavors.

As we celebrate these milestones, we express heartfelt appreciation for the ongoing growth and success of our TRIO Talent Search family. During this Thanksgiving season, let's come together with a spirit of thankfulness and shared purpose, inspiring, guiding, and empowering each student on their journey to reach their full potential.



**Paul Belvin - ETS Coordinator**

We have a Blog! You can find news and updates about our program at: <https://uvu.edu/trio/ets/blog/index.html>

You can find us online and on social media

Website: <https://uvu.edu/trio/ets>



Instagram: [uvuets](https://www.instagram.com/uvuets)



Facebook: [uvu ets](https://www.facebook.com/uvuets)

## FROM THE ADVISORS



Thank you students, parents, and administrators, for your support of the TRIO programs at Wasatch. We are currently striving to assist seniors in applying to colleges and are setting up FAFSA IDs for students and parents before the FAFSA officially opens this December. <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>. Please reach out if you need any assistance (LChild@uvu.edu). Also encourage your junior students to attend the spring mini college trip, March 27th-29th. Students have a remarkable chance to visit multiple college campuses, as well as, participate in exciting activities and build new relationships.

In November the focus has been on academic growth mindset - the idea that the human brain can learn and acquire new skills. For students, that means that although they may be currently struggling in a specific area, they can improve their skill. "I can become good at math if I put in the effort." "My writing will improve, if I take time to work on it and accept feedback." "Even though my attendance has been poor, I can change it." This belief that students can become better in any area is motivation to persevere. Don't give up, keep trying. You will see improvement. Thank you all, for making the TRIO programs at Wasatch so great to be a part of.



**Lisa Child — ETS Advisor**



**Did you know?** Over \$120 billion in financial aid is awarded annually by the US office of Federal Student Aid to more than 13 million eligible college students across the country. (South University, Savannah, Georgia).



Hello students and parents!

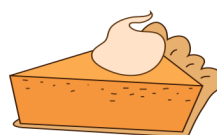
I am thrilled to introduce myself as your new ETS Advisor for Timpanogos Middle School and Rocky Mountain Middle School. I have a passion for education and wholeheartedly believe that with dedication and a positive mindset, you can achieve anything you set your sights on.



A little about me - I hold a Master's degree in Professional Communication from Southern Utah University. In addition to my academic background, I have a creative side that I love to explore through video editing, AI art, and graphic design. I have a deep love for traveling, cherish time with family, adore animals, appreciate good music, and savor delicious food.

I'm so excited to work with Heber's 7th and 8th-grade students, inspiring their future ambitions and guiding them with new knowledge, enthusiasm, and an innovative spirit. Here's to a fantastic year of growth and learning!

**Olivia Thornock — ETS Advisor**



### Upcoming ACT Test Dates

**December 9, 2023**

**February 10, 2024**

**April 13, 2024**

**June 8, 2024**

**July 13, 2024**

## FROM THE ADVISORS



Lots of exciting things happening at MVHS and OJHS so far this year! I have loved starting to get to know the new 7th graders at Orem Junior, and deepening my relationships with the other TRIO students.



So far this year we've had some wonderful workshops at both the Junior High and High School focused on helping the students be better students, better citizens, and to be more academically and financially ready for college. 100% of TRIO seniors at MVHS have applied for college!!! I am now shifting my focus with them to scholarship applications. MVHS TRIO Juniors are now starting to get more serious about college and have started narrowing down a list of schools they are interested in. Soon we will be beginning ACT prep with them. It's an important time in the lives of these students.



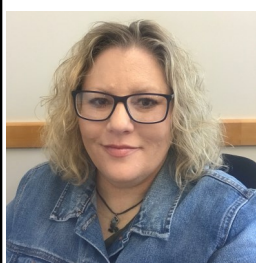
TRIO meeting attendance has never been higher and I am so excited to see what the rest of the year will bring.

**Kaitlyn Dyshkant — ETS Advisor**



Did you know that the average Bachelor's degree college graduate will make more than \$1 million in their lifetime more than persons without a Bachelor's degree? College is so worth it!

<https://www.aplu.org/our-work/4-policy-and-advocacy/public-values/employment-earnings/#:~:text=College%20graduates%20are%20half%20as,million%20more%20over%20their%20lifetime.>

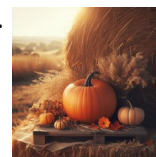


We did it! We survived Utah College Application Month! Congratulations to all of the Seniors at Uintah River and Union High Schools for completing their college applications. If for some reason your student has not applied to their top colleges, it isn't too late to apply and students won't need to choose which college to attend until next spring, but it is essential that Seniors apply to all of the schools they are interested in now.



The Department of Education is making major changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA). Because of those changes, the FASFA will not open until December. This means that our window for applying will be smaller than usual. Seniors and their parent can get a jump start on the process by going to <https://www.studentaid.gov> and creating a FASFA ID. Each FASFA contributor needs their own FASFA ID, meaning parents need their own ID and students need their own ID. Please do that now so we will not need to worry about it during FASFA night. If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Lesla Dixon — ETS Advisor**



Did you know that Nationwide 34% of undergraduate students receive a Pell Grant? The average Pell Grant award is \$4,491 and the maximum amount an individual can receive is \$6,895. That is money that does not need to be paid back!

Hanson, Melanie. "Pell Grant Statistics" EducationData.org, June 5, 2023, <https://educationdata.org/pell-grant-statistics>

## FROM THE ADVISORS



**Happy Holidays!** We are almost halfway through the school year. As we approach Winter Break, I want to remind you of the importance of reading. Grand Canyon University listed 11 Positive Impacts of Reading:

- 1) Helps Understand Instructions
- 2) Supports Us on the Job
- 3) Develops New Skills
- 4) Brings a Sense of Discovery
- 5) Grows Imaginations
- 6) Helps Our Writing
- 7) Develops a Sense of Accomplishment
- 8) Supports All Areas of Life
- 9) Builds a Strong Vocabulary
- 10) Builds Accurate Spelling Skills
- 11) Builds Community



**Whitney Parry — ETS Advisor**



**Did You Know:** Improving your reading skills can help you do better in school and improve your test scores. The more you read the more you improve your fluency and comprehension which can help your communication skills as well. So over Winter Break try to read some books! Even reading graphic novels can be a great way to practice your reading skills and improve your comprehension. Visit the school or community library soon and check out some books!

<https://www.gcu.edu/blog/teaching-school-administration/importance-and-impact-of-reading>



When embarking on our journey of self-discovery we must be prepared to venture down multiple paths, some multiple times. It is very important to begin this journey with the end in mind. The end goal can be the realization and fulfilment of our purpose through the discovery and development of our gifts and abilities.

The college experience is an effective incubator for the lifelong process of self-discovery. It must be said that this pursuit of self-discovery may be a challenge at times, particularly during the teenage and young adult stage when the need for acceptance often leads to conformity. It should however be noted that the benefits of prioritizing self-discovery is invaluable to both the individual and the larger society. Everyone wins when we show up as happier and healthier beings in our world. Our health is our wealth. It is worth preserving.

**Ms. Neptune — ETS Advisor**



About 2 in 5 adults report anxiety and depression. About 2 in 5 teens describe experiencing persistent sadness or hopelessness, exacerbated by social media, bullying, and gun violence. About 1 in 5 adults in the United States experience mental illness in a given year.

<https://blog.proemhealth.com/mental-health-month-2023>



The SafeUT app is there when you need someone to talk to, but you're not sure who to turn to. Ask a simple question, or start an in-depth conversation.





## ETS Program Locations & Advisor Contact Information

**Kaitlyn Dyshkant**  
Email: [Kaitlyn.larsen@uvu.edu](mailto:Kaitlyn.larsen@uvu.edu)  
Ph: 385-265-2459

Mountain View High School  
Orem Junior High School

**Whitney Parry**  
Email: [parrywa@uvu.edu](mailto:parrywa@uvu.edu)  
Ph: 801-960-2425

Timpview High School  
Centennial Middle School

**Lisa Child**  
Email: [LChild@uvu.edu](mailto:LChild@uvu.edu)  
Ph: 801-755-6120

Wasatch High School

**Marlene Neptune**  
Email: [m.neptune@uvu.edu](mailto:m.neptune@uvu.edu)  
Ph: 385-645-5801

Provo High School  
Dixon Middle School

**Lesa Dixon**  
Email: [lesa.dixon@uvu.edu](mailto:lesa.dixon@uvu.edu)  
Ph: 435-709-5665

Union High School  
Roosevelt Junior High School  
Uintah River High School

**Olivia Thornock**  
Email: [olivia.thornock@uvu.edu](mailto:olivia.thornock@uvu.edu)  
Ph: 385-283-1231

Rocky Mountain Middle School  
Timpanogos Middle School

**Success is  
not for the  
chosen few;  
it's for those  
who are  
willing to  
work for it.**

SCHOOLPOSTERS.COM





## Senior College Tour—Fall 2023



Talent Search seniors holding their SWAG bags at the end of touring Brigham Young University (BYU).



A group of Talent Search seniors getting a tour of Southern Utah University's library.



At the end of Day 1, our Talent Search seniors were able to catch the performance of Tarzan at Tuacahn Amphitheatre in St. George (after a rain delay :). Our view of the stage from our seats and the welcome sign from Tuacahn was a nice touch.



A group of Talent Search seniors getting a tour of SUU's campus.



Talent Search seniors standing in front of Carter Carillon Tower on SUU's campus.



A group of Talent Search seniors getting a tour of Utah Tech University's campus.



## Senior College Tour—Fall 2023



These pictures were taken soon after arrival. Michael, the site manager, led a tour and explained how the geology had changed over time due to rainfall, erosion, wind, and other environmental factors. He also explained how past people lived and survived in the area including Native Americans and more recently white settlers at the turn of the century.

That night we celebrated Andrew and Paul's birthdays and capped off the night with viewing the night sky. Through a telescope we viewed the moon, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, the Andromeda Galaxy, the Milky Way Galaxy, and numerous constellations.

The next morning after cleaning up we learned how much water we used and our total garbage production as a group. At the time we left the UVU's Field Station, our group was #1 in water conservation and the least amount of garbage produced!!



Utah Valley University has a field station at Capitol Reef National Park. We were granted permission to stay at the field station on the second night of our trip.

When we arrived, we were given an orientation and learned key concepts in sustainability and conservation.





## Senior College Tour—Fall 2023



Talent Search seniors on the campus of Utah Tech University.



Our TRIO Talent Search campus group tour was welcomed on Utah Tech's campus.



Our seniors on their 3rd college tour at Snow College.



Our seniors after the Tarzan musical at Tuacahn Amphitheatre. Due to the rain delay, we got out of the show late but it was worth it!



A quick but fun stop at Goblin Valley State Park.

Thank you to parents and school administrators allowing your students to attend our college trip tour. We are looking forward to taking a group of our Juniors on a college trip scheduled for March 27th—29th.

According to the more recent data collected by the U.S. Department of Education, 80% of Talent Search participants enrolled in postsecondary institutions immediately following high school graduation.

<https://coenet.org/coe-and-trio-programs/>

