

# EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH TIMES

**TRIO**  
TALENT SEARCH

JANUARY 2026

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 3



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## WHAT'S NEW!

- Date for Spring College Tour:  
March 19 - 20
- Touring universities  
in southern Utah



## FROM THE COORDINATOR

Dear TRIO Talent Search Students, Parents, and School Staff,

As we welcome the 2026 calendar year, we also reach an exciting milestone in the school year—the halfway point! With the start of the second semester or third quarter, now is the perfect time for students and families to reflect on progress, reset goals, and finish strong. This is a fresh opportunity to build momentum, stay organized, and take advantage of the support and resources available through TRIO Educational Talent Search as we move toward spring.

For students, especially juniors and seniors, this is a critical time to focus on ACT preparation and standardized testing. Strong test scores can open doors to more college options and scholarships, so consistent practice and preparation truly matter. Seniors should also be checking priority college admissions deadlines—many are approaching quickly. For example, Utah Valley University's priority deadline is February 1, and meeting these dates can improve admission and scholarship opportunities.



Finally, seniors if you haven't already, now is the time to complete the FAFSA and be sure it is sent to every college you are considering. Financial aid is a key part of making college affordable, and students and families should carefully compare financial aid packages to find the best education at the best value. As always, TRIO Educational Talent Search is here to help guide you through each step. Let's make 2026 a year of progress, achievement, and exciting opportunities ahead!

Paul, ETS Coordinator

## UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 19

MLK DAY

FEB 16

PRESIDENTS DAY

FEB 27

JR. COLLEGE TRIP  
APP DEADLINE

MAR 19-20

JUNIOR COLLEGE TRIP



# SCHOOLS SERVED



OREM JUNIOR HIGH  
SCHOOL

MOUNTAIN VIEW HIGH  
SCHOOL



**AIMEE BURR**

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

TIMPANOGOS MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

WASATCH HIGH SCHOOL



**SAM WILSON**

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SHORELINE MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

PROVO HIGH SCHOOL



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ROOSEVELT JUNIOR  
HIGH SCHOOL

UINTAH RIVER HIGH  
SCHOOL



**LESA DIXON**

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CENTENNIAL MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

TIMPVIEV HIGH  
SCHOOL



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## NEWS & UPDATES FROM YOUR ADVISOR

### FROM LESA IN ROOSEVELT

Happy New Year!

One of my favorite topics to discuss during our Mandatory Monthly Meetings is "How to be a Rock-star Student" from our Dream Catcher Curriculum. <https://www.dreamcatchercurriculum.com/> It



emphasizes the need to be well-rounded. Often students think that in order to win scholarships they must have perfect grades and test scores - which is important, but that is not all that scholarship committees are interested in. They are often looking for students who spend time making the world around them a better place by volunteering, being involved in co-curricular events and trying new things. If you haven't done something kind for another human in a while, take a few minutes today and lend a helping hand to someone. Each of our group discussions about being a "Rock Star Student" includes a "quiz" designed to help students do some self-reflection about their life choices. Your turn: Take a few minutes of self-reflection while you read this list of 17 statements and see how you are doing at being a "Rockstar."



1. You ate breakfast this morning.
2. You've watched, read [or listened] to a news story in the last 24 hours.
3. You are involved in at least two different co-curricular activities.
4. You volunteered to help others in the last month.
5. You haven't missed a day of school this year so far.
6. You haven't been late to an event, school day, or club meeting in the last month.
7. You've visited a college campus before.
8. You had at least 7 hours of sleep last night.
9. You haven't turned in an assignment late in the last year.
10. You have taken notes in a class this month and reread them for the test.
11. You have read a book for fun in the last month.
12. Your notebooks for class are neat and organized.
13. You haven't shown up unprepared for class all year so far.
14. You volunteer or participate with an organization outside of school (like in a church or community group).
15. If you make mistakes or have failures, you try again rather than give up.
16. You have tried something new in the last six months (could be food or activity or joined a club, etc.).
17. You have taken on extra responsibility or leadership this year.



## NEWS & UPDATES FROM YOUR ADVISOR

CONTINUED

### FROM SAM IN HEBER



Happy 2026! I hope everyone had a great holiday break. As we launch into the new year, we will initially focus on career exploration utilizing various assessments such as the Holland Code and the VARK evaluation. For ETS seniors, we will discuss a variety of college admission processes, review the Graduation Cord Checklists and make sure everyone is on track using their Senior Guide Packets. Freshmen, sophomores and juniors will also be receiving extra ACT preparation lessons as the juniors get ready to take the ACT at Wasatch High School on March 17th.



Attention families of ETS juniors: the ETS College Tour Trip will be March 19-20! We will be visiting colleges in southern Utah such as Utah Tech University, Southern Utah University and Snow College. If your child has an interest in attending any of these universities, we would love for them to attend this overnight trip so they can tour each college and get a better feel of campus life. This truly is a great way to make sure the university is a good fit for each student. A \$35 deposit is required, which will be returned to the student upon attending the trip. To qualify, the student must have taken the ACT or be registered to take the ACT. Please contact me with any questions. It'll be a fun time!



### FROM TRESSA IN PROVO



Happy New Year, Shoreline and Provo High students! The start of a new year is a great time to reflect on your educational goals and recommit to working hard to achieve them.

This month, our focus varies by grade level. Seniors are learning about scholarship opportunities and how to prepare strong applications. Juniors are focusing on the ACT, including study strategies for the upcoming March test date. Freshmen and sophomores are also being introduced to the ACT—what it involves and how to begin preparing for it early. At Shoreline, students are building money-management skills through our Reality Check activity.

Looking ahead, juniors can look forward to the Mini-College Trip on March 19–20. We will be traveling to Southern Utah to tour four college campuses. In the coming weeks, Shoreline and Provo High students will also have the opportunity to attend a UVU basketball game.

As always, please stop by the College and Career Center if you have any questions, and be sure to join us for our monthly groups. I'm here to help!



NEARLY ONE-THIRD OF COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THE U.S. ARE THE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE, MEANING YOU ARE PART OF A BIG MOVEMENT OF TRAILBLAZERS! FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS ARE BREAKING BARRIERS AND SETTING NEW PATHS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

[HTTPS://WWW.BRANDEIS.EDU/ACADEMIC-SERVICES/SSSP/I-AM/FACTS.HTML](https://www.brandeis.edu/academic-services/sssp/i-am/facts.html)



DID YOU KNOW THAT STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN TRIO PROGRAMS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND ENROLL IN COLLEGE THAN STUDENTS WITH SIMILAR BACKGROUNDS WHO DON'T PARTICIPATE? THAT'S BECAUSE TRIO FOCUSES ON EXACTLY WHAT MATTERS MOST—ACADEMIC SUPPORT, COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE, AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM ADULTS WHO KNOW AND BELIEVE IN YOU. THIS YEAR, OUR GOAL IS SIMPLE BUT POWERFUL: HELP EVERY STUDENT SEE THAT COLLEGE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL IS POSSIBLE, ACHIEVABLE, AND WORTH PLANNING FOR NOW.



## NEWS & UPDATES FROM YOUR ADVISOR

CONTINUED

### FROM KAITLYN IN PROVO

As we kick off the new year at Timpview High School, I'm excited about the opportunities ahead for our TRIO ETS students. This semester, we'll be diving into college and career exploration, strengthening academic skills, and building plans for the coming years. I'm especially looking forward to continuing one-on-one advising and workshops to help my students feel confident navigating classes, graduation requirements, and post-high school opportunities. It's inspiring to see students set goals, ask big questions, and take ownership of their futures.



### FROM AIMEE IN OREM

Preparing for college while still in high school is a bold and transformative step, especially when you are the first in your family to navigate this path. You are already proving your resilience and determination by balancing your current studies with the complex process of college applications and financial aid. Remember that being "first" doesn't mean being alone; it means you are a pioneer, opening doors that were previously closed. Your unique perspective and hard-earned "grit" are assets that will not only help you succeed in higher education but will also enrich the classrooms you enter.



As you look toward the next academic year and beyond, take advantage of every resource available to you now, like high school counselors and your TRIO ETS advisor! They are here to help you demystify the "hidden curriculum" of college life. By doing the work now—researching scholarships, visiting campuses, and asking questions—you are already building your future. Your potential is limitless, and your journey is just beginning.



"EDUCATION IS THE PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE, FOR TOMORROW BELONGS TO THOSE WHO PREPARE FOR IT TODAY." - MALCOLM X

[HTTPS://FEATURES.YORK.AC.UK/EDUCATION-IS-THE-PASSPORT-TO-THE-FUTURE-FOR-TOMORROW-BELONGS-TO-THOSE-WHO-PREPARE-FOR-IT-TODAY-MALCOLM-X/INDEX.HTML](https://features.york.ac.uk/education-is-the-passport-to-the-future-for-tomorrow-belongs-to-those-who-prepare-for-it-today-malcolm-x/index.html)



# TRIO College Tours

Utah Valley University  
Snow College  
Utah Tech University  
Southern Utah University



## TOUR MULTIPLE CAMPUSES

- 2 DAYS - 1 NIGHT
- CHECK OUT COLLEGE CAMPUSES
- GET QUESTIONS ANSWERED
- A FUN EVENING ACTIVITY
- NO COST - ALL EXPENSES PAID

**OPEN TO CURRENT  
TALENT SEARCH JUNIORS**

**MARCH  
19-20**

SEE YOUR ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.  
SCAN THIS QR CODE TO APPLY ONLINE



SCAN ME

UVU.EDU/TRIO/ETS



- Certificate & Cord created (for office use only)

# EARN A TRiO GRADUATION CORD

(Educational Talent Search & Upward Bound)

**To earn a graduation cord, earn 15 points by the April 1, 2026 deadline**

**STUDENT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SCHOOL:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Write your name clearly above as you would like it on your certificate)

\_\_\_\_\_ Talent Search  
\_\_\_\_\_ Upward Bound

TASK TO COMPLETE	POINT VALUE	EARNED
1. FASFA completion	1 point	
2. Senior Resume (with photo) submission	1 point	
3. Apply to college	5 points	
a. Apply to a college in Utah (1 pt each, 3 pts max)		
b. Apply to a college outside of Utah (2 pts each, 2 pts. max)		
4. Apply for scholarships	5 points	
a. Application to a scholarship that requires an essay (1 pt each, 3 pts max)		
b. Application to Daniels Fund Scholarship (2 pts, 2 pts max)		
5. Check in with advisor (monthly) re: Sr. Guide Checklist	1 point	
6. UB: attend 1 summer program over 4 years, or ETS: attend mini college trip	2 points	
7. Submit a student spotlight to advisor with photo (Sr. yr.)	1 point	
8. Take the ACT	3 points	
a. First time (1 pt), Retake ACT (2 pts), 3 pts max		
9. Attend GGA's in senior year (ETS 6, UB 10)	1 point	
10. Complete Senior Exit Survey	1 point	
11. Register for National TRiO Alumni Association with COE	1 point	
12. Recruit one "both" student into either ETS or UB	3 points	
a. Each application is 1 pt, 3 pts max		
<b>REMEMBER BACK SIDE OF FORM MUST BE COMPLETED</b>	<b>25 points possible</b>	

I certify, as the **TRiO** Academic Advisor for \_\_\_\_\_ (student name),  
that named student has earned at least 15 points to earn a 2026 graduation cord from the UVU **TRiO**  
Program. Signed,

Academic Advisor Signature

Date