This coming year (2015) marks the 50th anniversary of the TRiO Educational Talent Search Program. That means 50 years of helping students fill out college applications, apply for scholarships, register for financial aid, and continuously pursue higher education during their pre-college years.

We have done a lot in a little bit of time, but it is important that we work even harder to become the very best that we can be. We must work to set an example for our students. We must show that it is a priority to get as many students to college as we possibly can.

The one way we can do this is by focusing on our mission statement: Providing talented students with college- and career-readiness opportunities, and assisting them in their path toward higher education.

The main focus of our mission is students. And not just students, but talented students. We believe that each and every student in our program has the ability to go to college. Whether that means a vocational school, a 2-year college, a 4-year college, or even moving on toward a post-baccalaureate school, we believe that all TRiO students have the potential to achieve.

TRiO students make the program. Their personal stories, their diverse experiences, their identities and, most importantly, their desire for success.

We hope that we are doing everything we can to provide long-lasting opportunities for all TRiO Educational Talent Search students. Hopefully our workshops provide you the valuable information you need to succeed. And for those who want more than workshops, we always try our best to show you the world outside of Grand Rapids.

Why? Because we think you’re worth it.
Money:

The Biggest Fear About Going to College

Grants, scholarships, subsidized loans, unsubsidized loans. With all these different ways to get money, it's sometimes hard to sift through what's a good deal, and what's not. Here are a few facts about financial aid that will help quell your fears about what's a good deal, and what's a bad one.

- **Subsidized loans** — A subsidized loan is borrowed money whose interest will be paid by the government while a student is attending college.
- **Unsubsidized loan** — An unsubsidized loan is a loan that accrues interest during the loan's entire lifespan.
  - If a student **MUST** take out a loan, a subsidized loan is preferred.
- **Scholarship** — A scholarship is a financial gift that — unlike a loan — does not have to be repaid. Scholarships differ from grants in that they are competitive.
  - Example: The Gates-Millennium Scholarship
- **Grant** — A grant is a financial gift that does not have to be repaid. It is different from a scholarship in that it is non-competitive or based on need. *Example: Pell Grant.*

**MOST IMPORTANTLY,** students must fill out a FAFSA in order to qualify for loans, grant, and most scholarships. Make sure to talk to your advisor about how you can plan to pay for a college education!

---

Have You Seen Mr. Beene?

Mr. Beene has been interning with TRiO Educational Talent Search as a part of his Masters of Social Work program. We are very happy to consider him a part of our team for the 2014-2015 academic year.

If you see him, here are a few things that you could talk to him about:

- How to be successful in college
- Graduating from a GRPS High School
- Basketball
- Being a Success Coach at GRCC
- What is happening in TRiO
- Why it's important to go to college
- Why he is proud to be a Social Worker

So remember: if you see Mr. Beene, make sure to say “hi.” We promise you won’t regret it.
**College Prep Crossword**

Across
3. Year students apply to colleges
4. Grade Point Average
5. What students fill out in order to attend a college
7. Our Twitter handle @
10. The type of culture we aim to create in TRIO
11. Important in-school meetings for TRIO students
12. Free money for college (non-competitive)
14. What you search to find us on Facebook
15. Professional at school; discusses grades and helps with scheduling
16. Name of the form students fill out for financial aid
17. Colleges might send you a letter of

Down
1. Educational Talent Search will be _____ years old in 2015
2. Tuition Incentive _____ can pay for community college
3. Last issue helped students create _____ goals
4. Scholarship that can pay for 10 years of college
6. A great activity during holiday break
8. Free money for college (competitive)
9. Next year, students must graduate with _____ years of a foreign language
13. If you plan to live on-campus, you must fill out a _____ application
16. Educational Talent Search is a _____ Program
Family Holiday Celebration

We want to thank everyone who came out for our Family Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 6. It was a great event with great people, great food, and great fun. As a way to show our gratitude, we want to say thank you to those who helped make this event a success:

- **Grand Valley State University** — For creating a space that embraces the mission of TRiO Educational talent Search.
- **GVSU's College of Education** — For paving the way for the work of TRiO Educational talent Search
- **GVSU's Conference and Event Planning** — For all their work in helping to plan a spectacular event
- **Kids' Food Basket** — For giving students and families the opportunity to give back to the community.
- **Spartan Nash** — For their generous donation of funds to buy a turkey for one lucky family
- **And, of course, the students and parents without whom we would never be able to do the awesome things that we do!**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT TRiO EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH**