

ETS | Educational Talent Search

FALL 2012 FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Central
College
— 1853 —

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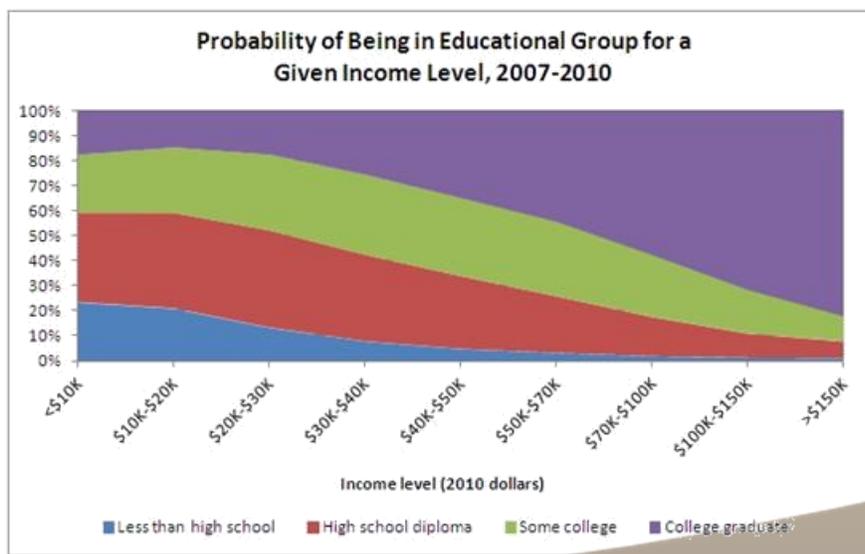


Happy Fall ETS Students & Families!

Educational Talent Search (ETS) is off to a running start for the 2012-2013 school year! A lot of exciting things are happening in our program with fun events and new staff. This newsletter is filled with highlights of our wonderful program and students. **Always remember—we are here to help you succeed and make your dream of going to college a reality!**

Is College Worth it?

There are many reasons to get a college education, with income potential being one of the most motivating. A study released last month clearly demonstrated that more education means more income. *Source: hamiltonproject.com*



TRIO

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Farewell Katie

Greetings ETS Families!

I am on the move to a new position at Iowa State University. It is a bittersweet time for me as I say goodbye to the ETS program, students, and staff. I am excited for a new adventure

in my professional career, but will truly miss all of the great staff and students I work with now! It has been a fun three years and I have loved getting to know students through meetings, events, and college visits. Luckily, I will continue working with students who participate in the Student Support Services Program (SSSP) at ISU. SSSP is also a TRIO program (like ETS) and I will be helping students stay on track in college and graduate on time. Thank you for all the great memories – and hopefully I will see some of you at ISU in the future! ~Katie

Welcome Bob

Meet the newest ETS coordinator, Bob Kuennen. Bob is originally from Fort Atkinson, Iowa and graduated from Wartburg College in 2006. He enjoys running (3 marathons), biking (4 RAGBRAIs), traveling, cheering his favorite teams (Iowa Hawkeyes, Minnesota Twins, & Minnesota Vikings), and spending time with friends and family (5 siblings, 3 nephews, 1 niece). Bob joins the ETS team after working at Pella Corporation for 6 years. He will also continue in his role as an assistant wrestling coach at Central College



"I am excited to work for ETS because I want to help young adults further their education and gain the confidence they need to experience and achieve things they didn't believe were possible!" ~Bob

ETS Staff Directory



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Juniors and Seniors Visit UI and UNI

On Wednesday, September 26, ETS juniors and seniors had the opportunity to see two of Iowa's regent universities in one day! The day began at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. Students listened to an admissions presentation and went on a tour that included the athletic facilities and a dorm. Students enjoyed a quick lunch at one of UNI's cafeterias called Rialto. From there, students loaded back on the bus and travelled to the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Students listened to another admissions presentation and went on a campus tour that included seeing another dorm.



College visits

*The best way to learn about a college is to VISIT!
Make the most of the opportunities ETS provides to go on college visits:*

Group Visits: Every ETS student will be given at least one opportunity to go on a group college visit this year. Please contact your coordinator if you don't know when your school is scheduled to go.

Small Groups: ETS coordinators are willing to take small groups of juniors and seniors to colleges that they are very interested in attending. Talk to your coordinator if you would like to take a small group college visit!

Individuals: ETS highly encourages all juniors and seniors to take individual college visits with a parent. We can even help pay for gas! Please ask your coordinator for a form to get reimbursed for the individual college visits you go on with your family.

Beauty and the Beast

Attention all high school students: ETS is going to *Beauty and the Beast* at the Civic Center in Des Moines on the evening of Tuesday, November 20.

There are a limited number of tickets, so we will reserve the tickets on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please be looking for the application in the mail and return AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if you would like to go.

Questions? Ask your coordinator.

Want to know more about the show? Go to:
www.beautyandthebeastontour.com/





7 Common Financial Aid Mistakes

1. **Not filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** this is the most important step!
2. **Not searching for scholarships:** look below for tips
3. **Ignoring the essay or letters of recommendation:** always follow directions completely
4. **Paying someone to search for scholarships:** never pay anyone to help you secure financial aid for college
5. **Passing over small sources:** every dollar can help
6. **Missing deadlines:** keep a calendar of all important dates
7. **Not starting to plan soon enough:** it is never too early to start planning for college!

Source: Des Moines Register

Looking for Scholarships

- ⇒ **Look Local:** school website, library, school counselor, community organizations
- ⇒ **College:** find out what scholarships a college may offer you—look on their website and ask on your college visits
- ⇒ **Search Online:**
 - www.ICANSucceed.org
 - www.collegeboard.com
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov
 - www.kaarme.com
 - www.scholarships.com

Struggling in School?

If you are struggling in school, ETS can help provide support. Here is the process we will walk you through:

1. **WHY:** Why are you struggling? Do you not understand the concepts or are you not getting your work done?
2. **TALK:** Talk to your teacher! See if he or she has suggestions or is available for extra help before or after school.
3. **TUTOR:** After steps 1 and 2, we may decide to help find you a tutor that can provide additional support.

Rigorous Curriculum?

Are you tired of your ETS coordinator always talking about core classes or rigorous curriculum? The reason we always talk about it is simple: IT IS IMPORTANT! One of the best ways to prepare for the ACT, to increase your college admission chances, and to overall prepare for college is to challenge yourself by taking a rigorous curriculum. So what does rigorous curriculum look like? See below:

Subject	Years	Examples
English	4	literature, composition
Math	3-4	algebra I & II, geometry
Science	3-4	biology, chemistry
Social Studies	3-4	history, government
Foreign Language	2-4	Spanish, French

ACT Test Dates

As an ETS student, you can take the ACT for free 2 times! We recommend the spring of your junior year and fall of your senior year. Get a fee waiver from your coordinator and register for the test online at www.actstudent.org.

Test Date	Registration Deadline
December 8	November 2
February 9	January 11
April 13	March 8
June 8	May 3

Through The Eyes Of The World

By: Keegan VanDevender, an ETS student from Oskaloosa High School, is spending a year in Belgium as a Rotary Exchange Student

In my first three weeks as an exchange student, I have accomplished a lot. I have met over 280 other exchange students, started school in a completely different language (French, which I had no prior knowledge of), broken many American stereotypes and SO much more! All of this, I know is preparing me for college.

Making contacts and broadening your networking may be one of the most important steps to your future. Every individual you meet in your life is a contact. These people may one day hire you, work for you, or even teach you. The idea is to make a great first impression. In one day, I had the opportunity to meet over 280 other Rotary International Youth Exchange Students, from over 25 different countries. Whether it was how they spoke or how they presented their personal "exchange cards," each student made an impression, often times in spite of language barriers.

Before I came, I had heard that "the American School System is so far behind others of the world." I find that to be the most exaggerated statement of this century! I have experienced the school system here in Belgium for two weeks now. And, I am proud to say that I miss the American School System! I miss the organization, the curriculum, the scheduling, and the same classes EVERY DAY!

Now, to the most important of the three topics: breaking American stereotypes. I was ready and expecting this, but I never imagined to this degree! I have heard and stood up to many comments, such as: "Oh, he won't eat that...he is too fond of only eating hamburgers and chips," and, "you are not as loud/ obnoxious as I thought you would be, no offense to Americans," and finally, "I thought that you two would be 'more obese' than you are." Everyday I am changing the views others have of Americans.

So in three very short weeks, as an American, a High Schooler and an Exchange Student, I can say that I have accomplished very much. I'm sure you would agree. I would love to share much more with you! If you would like to read more about my experience, check out my blog. Thank you for allowing me to share my experience with the world.

Blog: www.ThroughTheEyesOfTheWorld.blogspot.com



Want to See the World?

Keegan is an exchange student through Rotary International Youth Exchange Program. To learn more about this program, visit: www.rotary.org.

Another great way to "see to see the world" is to **STUDY ABROAD in college**. Every college and university is different when it comes to study abroad opportunities. As you research and visit colleges, make sure to ask about study abroad opportunities. Good questions to ask are: Where can I go? What can I study? Can my financial aid be used for studying abroad?

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A Student Perspective

By: Aaron Hosman, an ETS student at East High School

It has been a great start to the school year here at East High School. Many sports teams and groups have been quick to jump in their activities. The East High Student Government is busy planning Homecoming and the Scroll has already distributed two issues. Some more exciting news, after a short campaign the new officers of Senior Board have been elected which should help make this a great year for the senior class.

Personally, I am very excited for what the new school year will bring. East is full of spirit and pride which makes it a great place to learn and socialize. Many seniors, including myself are mapping out our futures and deciding which college fits us best. In my high school career ETS has helped prepare me for this critical time in my life. I feel more aware of my options and am at ease knowing many ETS coordinators are there when I have questions. I look forward to deciding on a school with the guidance of ETS.



How Can I Help My Child Succeed in School?

- ◆ Ask your child about school every day
- ◆ Help your child with homework
- ◆ Make sure they are getting plenty of sleep
- ◆ Stay involved—attend activities
- ◆ Be your child's advocate—contact teachers if you have questions or concerns
- ◆ Teach your child to be their own advocate—help your child take responsibility for their actions and school-work
- ◆ Be positive—don't talk negatively about the school or teachers
- ◆ Check your students grades online—ask the school how to make this available to you
- ◆ Ask your child about their goals—both present and future!

You Are **TRIO**!

Did you know that ETS is a **TRIO** program? What does that even mean? **TRIO** is a group of federally funded programs, designed to help students enroll in and graduate from college! Initially, there were three programs which is why they were under the name TRIO. More programs have been added over the years, but the name TRIO has remained! **You are part of TRIO because you are in ETS.**

TRIO Programs:

- ◆ Educational Talent Search (ETS)
- ◆ Upward Bound (UB)
- ◆ Upward Bound Math and Science (UBMS)
- ◆ Veterans' Upward Bound (VUB)
- ◆ Educational Opportunity Centers (EOC)
- ◆ Student Support Service (SSS)
- ◆ Ronald E. McNair (McNair)

