



2020-21 Talent Search Program Highlights

The word to describe the 2020-21 Program Year would have to be *Adapt!* The Pandemic of 2020 threw us all many curveballs; however, thanks to the resilience of our educational systems-we prevailed!

Virtual Programming Highlights

- Provided daily **workshops** to our Talent Search Participants by grade:
 - Over 400 Virtual sessions were held!
 - Developed new and exciting interactive workshops like Name That PA College & Cooking on a College Budget
 - Offered regular Scholarship Workshops with Essay Writing classes to get more students to apply
- **Virtual Field Trips** to colleges, employers & museums too!
- **SAT Boot Camp** Classes offered in the Fall, Spring & Summer
 - Record Number of students took advantage of our Prep Program!
 - This project was a bit of a hybrid. All registered students received a Packet delivered to their homes with a full paper practice test, a test success bag, and prizes for participation.
 - The Summer class was offered in person and on Zoom with over 45 students participating in this hybrid session.
- **College Signing Day** on May 2nd to celebrate & recognize all of our college bound students. The Talent Search Program participants enroll college at a rate of 96% !!
- **Medical Mentorship Virtual Program:** In June, 25 students signed up to participate in this amazing medical program presented by Javonda Quinn of the I'm Essential Group. Students received a copy of her book as well as a complete list of medical schools and their entrance requirements.

Innovative Hybrid Programming

- **Movie Night** with airing of Hidden Figures to honor and recognize Black History month, introduction by **Glynis Johns from Black Scranton**. Over 50 students participated & received a movie snack box to enjoy with their families
- **Surgery Live!!** In April, 33 students logged on to watch a live Gallbladder surgery performed at the Penn State Milton Hershey Medical Center. Our students had the opportunity to ask questions live to the surgical team!
- **Cow Eye Dissection Activity:** students registered for this program and received the dissection kit at their home with 4 opportunities to log onto a Zoom class led by our fantastic Medical Resident Tutor: Amelia Mackaray. 26 students completed this exciting activity!



- **Diversity & Inclusion through Food:** In June, 45 students signed up to receive their Japanese Snack box that tied to a lesson provided by our friends in the Social Work Department at Marywood University. Food, fun, and learning about other cultures!

Field Trips

When the world started to open up for in person activities, we hit the ground running!

- **Railriders Game** on June 17th-Educational Opportunity Centers of PA was fortunate to be the community organization of the game with an information table at the entrance. We wanted to celebrate this night with our students and their families-and ended up with 21 of our Talent Search students and their family members joining us for a great night of baseball and learned about careers in the Sports Management arena.
- **WBRE Commercial Shoot:** A big shout out to our TS students who not only starred in our commercial but learned all about careers in Communications-check out our commercial on our YouTube Channel!!
- **Syracuse, NY** on June 22nd: 36 Talent Search students from all of our Target Schools (Hanover Area, Hazleton Area, Scranton, Shenandoah Valley, and Wilkes-Barre Area) attended this fantastic trip! This 14-hour day was jam packed with lots of education and fun! **Syracuse University** allowed us to do a self-guided tour-some of the highlights included their amazing Dick Clark Media Center and their cool Student Center with a Dunkin Donuts! After lunch at the famous **Dinosaur BBQ** we were treated to a full tour of **Onondaga Community College**-what an amazing college! That has housing for over 700 students. We also were introduced to our fellow TRIO Programs that are housed on their campus!



- **Marywood Career Camp**-EOC provided transportation for students to attend this 3-day camp and learn about all of the careers that are under the majors that fall into helping professions such as Speech Therapy, Art Therapy, Social Work, Nursing, and more.
- **Lehigh Valley Photography Trip**-on July 17th, 19 students learned about photography from our special guest, Joan Dooley and visited Lehigh Carbon Community College before lunch. During lunch at the Thunderhead Lodge on the Appalachian Trail, the students learned about the importance of lighting and career opportunities in communications. After lunch, the students used their new photography skills to conduct a scavenger hunt on the Appalachian Trail and Bear Junction fun park.



momentum! After a night of swimming, games & food at our hotel, Cheyney University taught us about the history of this first HBCU

- **Philadelphia Overnight Trip:** on August 9 & 10th, 42 students traveled to the Philly area and enjoyed a jam packed 2-day trip! The First stop was The Franklin Institute-the students loved the exhibits on the Brain & the Heart as well as the Sports Physics exhibit where we learned a lot about



(Historically Black college/university) as well as the financial aid, admissions and the amazing majors at this wonderful school located not far from us! Our stop at Alvernia University was delayed-but we will plan to visit them soon!

- **Indraloka Animal Sanctuary Trip:** On August 16th, 22 students visited this amazing Animal Sanctuary in Dalton, PA to meet with a wide range of animals that have been saved and rehabilitated. This trip taught us about careers in the veterinary sciences including how to bandage a chicken's infected foot. Students were also treated to a lesson on sustainability and cow air-conditioning.
- **Airport Trip:** On August 26th, the Lehigh Valley Airport allowed us to bring a small group of students for a full tour and meet with airline pilots. This trip provided an overview of how an airport works, all of the careers that are available at an airport, and what it takes to be a pilot.

Programming to reach more students

- The EOC Talent Search Program hosted a week long camp at the Hazleton One Center from August 2nd to the 6th. This career and education focused camp provided the students with a lot of information on being a successful student and how to make a post-secondary plan. Over 50 students participated during the week with a **field trip to Wilkes University** as the capstone to the camp.
- **Lackawanna County TANF Summer Program:** over the entire summer, EOC conducted 5 workshops to reach 75 students who were working at a variety of work sites. The lessons included Hot Jobs of the Future & College Myth or Truth.
- **Financial Aid Dinner** meeting with PHEAA & the PA State Treasury to provide information on the 529 Plan

Volunteer Opportunities

- Stand Down for our Homeless Veterans and civilians at 2 locations. Our Talent Search students and their families were invited to assist EOC and Valor Clinic Foundation with clothing, food, hygiene products & more.
 - Wilkes-Barre location on July 4th & the Hazleton location on August 1st

2020-21 Talent Search Scholarships Awarded:

- Dev Patel, Scranton High School
- Megan Bell, Shenandoah Valley
- Kunj Patel, Scranton High School
- Ada Soriano, EL Meyers HS
- Alexandra Gomez, GAR HS
- Deep Patel, Scranton High School
- Daranjeliz Ortiz, Scranton HS
- Angel Pujols, Hazleton Area
- Cabre Capalongo, West Scranton HS

Summer Earn & Learn Program

Thanks to the support of the Department of Education, we were able to provide our participants with a stipend for participating in summer programming! Over 100 students earned a minimum of \$60 with about one-third earning \$120! Learning about careers and education pays off!

Target Talent Search Participants:

- Attend Grades 7-12
- Target Schools: Hanover Area, Hazleton Area, Scranton, Shenandoah Valley, & WB Area
- Attend post-secondary schooling at a rate of 96%
- 2/3 are both low-income (150% of the Federal poverty line) and are the first in their family to realize a bachelor degree
- Visit on average 6 colleges during their time with our Talent Search Program
- Refer a student today: angeline@eocinc.org or (570) 331-6755

