

# TRiO : TALENT SEARCH

## TS- Talent Search *New Program Launched*

*“My favorite aspect of the Talent Search program is getting to use the tools provided by the grant to go beyond the bare minimum for these students. We all know schools are strained in so many ways and students see it. What I want students to see is when they come through our program, they have a team behind them, and we have what they need in order to obtain goals they didn’t even know existed.” – Ally Graham, Talent Search Advisor*

Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO) are federal outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds. TRIO consists of eight programs targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to postbaccalaureate programs. Talent Search is one of these programs.

Talent Search identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete their postsecondary education. The program publicizes the availability of financial aid and assists participants with the postsecondary application process. Talent Search also encourages persons who have not completed education programs at the secondary or postsecondary level to enter or reenter and complete postsecondary education. The goal of Talent Search is to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in and complete their postsecondary education.

A Talent Search program was recently launched at North Central Missouri College (NCMC). Staff leading this effort include the Director, Dr. Cindy Wells, and two Talent Search Advisors, all housed in St. Joseph. The program is a partnership between NCMC and St. Joseph School District (SJSD). The Talent Search program will serve 6 buildings within the St. Joseph School District; Benton, Central and Lafayette High Schools as well as Rubidoux, Spring Garden and Truman Middle Schools. Participants will include up to 500 6th through 12th grade students. *“The partnership between NCMC and SJSD is an opportunity to provide SJSD students with resources and options for their future that they may not have had if the Talent Search program didn’t exist. The intentional nature in which this program encourages, motivates, and provides a path to a college degree for the students in this program is something we look forward to having in our district,”* according to Mr. Shannon Nolte, Director of Secondary Education for the SJSD. Services provided to program participants include academic advisement, career exploration and college awareness activities, financial aid and scholarship information, tutoring, college and career field trips, and individual assistance with various applications and forms.

To learn more about TRIO - Talent Search, visit <https://www.ncmissouri.edu/talent-search/> or contact Talent Search staff at 816-341-6563 or email Dr. Cindy Wells at [ciwells@mail.ncmissouri.edu](mailto:ciwells@mail.ncmissouri.edu).

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