

## A Note from the Director

Dave Kamrad



As Director of the TRiO Pre-College Programs, Talent Search (TS) and Upward Bound (UB), it is my pleasure on behalf of my staff and myself to welcome everyone back for another great year. There have been some changes, with hiring three new staff (1 TS & 2 UB), but we are all excited to be meeting students in classrooms, study labs, and other program activities. It is our mission to help every participant feel welcomed, connected, and a part of our TRiO family. We strive to challenge each student to grow in his or her academic abilities and to be college-ready by the time a student graduates from high school. Our staff has planned and created classroom/study lab activities to engage students in learning. We believe all our students will graduate from high school prepared for the demands of postsecondary education.

When you get a chance, please visit our website at [keweenawtrio.org](http://keweenawtrio.org) and peruse the information about each program (TRiO TS & TRiO UB) and the many topics related to being successful in high school. Furthermore, the college corner tab has specific material on choosing a career, ACT/SAT prep, applying to college, financial aid, and other college-related topics. We also enter dates for all events and activities into the “Events Calendar” feature on our website. Additionally, we have two Facebook pages (TRiO Talent Search, & TRiO Upward Bound [private]) and a Twitter account (@trioprecollegeprograms ) that we use to send out updates, post photos and make announcements as we go through the school year. If you have any questions or would like to meet the staff, click on the “Contact Staff” tab.

I am honored to serve as the Director of the TRiO Pre-College Programs. It is truly a privilege to be a part of programs that work with parents/guardians, the school, and the community to ensure a better future for each of our students and strive to build positive relationships that support academic and social growth. Please feel free to contact me at (906)487-7235 or [kamrad@finlandia.edu](mailto:kamrad@finlandia.edu).

Once again, welcome back! Let’s make this year the best one yet!

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## Welcoming New TRIO-PC Staff

TRIO Pre-College Programs is excited to welcome three new staff to our team.

Catherine Jordan joins us as an Academic Coordinator for Upward Bound. Catherine is a Hancock native who recently moved back to the area. Catherine holds a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and a Master's degree in Education.

Also joining the Upward Bound team as an Academic Coordinator is Brian Irizarry. While born and raised in Atlanta, GA, Brian has lived in Italy and Germany while serving in the US Marines. Brian holds Bachelor's degrees in Romantic Languages and Mathematics.

Our final new hire is Emily Cibulka, who joins the Talent Search team as an Academic Advisor, serving Dollar Bay-Tamarack City, Forest Park, Jeffers, Lake Linden-Hubbell, and Luther L Wright schools. Emily holds an Associate's degree in Applied Science, Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree Evolutionary Psychology.



## Upward Bound – Summer Program

This summer twenty-four students participated in the annual Upward Bound Summer Program. The program is designed to give students first-hand experience with living on a college campus. Students live in the Finlandia dorms, take classes that prepare them for their next school year, and participate in group activities and community service.

The five week program culminated with a trip to Atlanta, GA. Students toured the University of Georgia and the Georgia Aquarium, among other attractions. Students also participated in a medieval dinner while watching a traditional jousting competition.



## File your FAFSA (EARLY!)

The FAFSA is now open! And while the official priority deadline for Michigan is March 1, it is suggested that seniors made a personal goal of completing the form before the New Year. But why? Below are some of the benefits of early FAFSA filing.



1. Institutional & State Aid – Colleges and state agencies often look at FAFSA’s during the winter or as soon as they are available to determine the kinds and amount of aid they will offer. The soon they see your FAFSA data, the quicker they will send you their FA offer.
2. Compare Colleges – Aid offered is one of the biggest factors in determining which school a student will attend. If each school your student applies to provides their FA offer by January, think of all the time your student will have to consider which school is the best fit.
3. Michigan Competitive – if you know your student qualifies for the MI Competitive Scholarship, it is important to make sure your FAFSA has been submitted before March 1 to ensure the scholarship is received.
4. Less Stress – The experts at Cappex suggest filing earlier will relieve senior year stressors on both and student and the family. Since many families think of the FAFSA as a daunting form (which it is not), having it out of the way allows them to focus on college and scholarship applications and enjoying senior year.



### Alumni Spotlight

Jack Boro is a current sophomore at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI. Jack, a 2016 Ewen-Trout Creek High School alum, is currently studying Group Social Studies/Education.

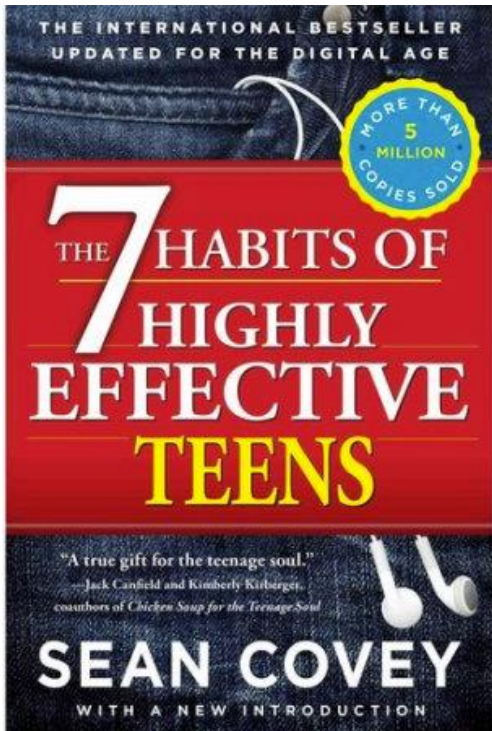
Jack says the thing he enjoys most about college is the challenge it provides in both his academic and everyday life, and is happily surprised by the amount of resources provided. “Professors are always willing to help, and tutoring services are always accessible. Being successful is based completely on your willingness to put in the effort,” says Jack.

“The most valuable lesson I learned being a TRIO-TS member is despite your background, you can be successful in college.” When asked for his advice to current TRIO Pre-College students, Jack says, “I would suggest students really shoot for their dream college. It’s not crazy to go from a small high school to a large university. It’s a very eye-opening experience that I would highly recommend for anyone.”

## COE – Crossing the Finish Line

In mid-September the TRIO Pre-College staff attended the annual COE (Council for Opportunity in Education) conference in Washington DC. The conference, with the theme *Crossing the Finish Line –From Access to Career*, was attended by 1500+ TRIO professionals and advocates from across the country. CNN commentator Ana Navarro opened the conference reminding us the importance of education saying, “It is the way of opening doors and opening hearts and opening minds.”

Throughout the week, Keweenaw TRIO staff attended sessions focused on best practices for our programs, heard updates from education leaders, and honored successful TRIO alum for their achievements. It was a great week of learning and preparing for the 2017-2018 year.



## Lifting Up the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Whether in their academics or socially, everyday holds a new set of challenges for junior high and high school students. For many students and their families, the transition from junior high to high school brings additional anxieties like getting from class to class, keeping up with homework and studying and peer pressure.

In order to ease the transition, Talent Search offers 8<sup>th</sup> grade students the chance to meet monthly for homework help and activities to prepare students for high school. Students take part in mobile version of the Game of Life, where they make decisions about jobs and family, and balance a checkbook at each meeting.

Activities are based on *7 Habits for Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey. Each lesson is applicable to both their academic and social lives, like Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind. This habit teaches students the key to success is knowing what the end goal is, and then planning short-

term goals to use as steps to their dream.

We look forward to seeing the Talent Search 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and helping them prepare to be successful in high school.