

Transitioning Together

A Mentor Program for First Generation Students Applying to College

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Class of 2019 Retreat	1
Welcome Class of 2019	1
Alumni Spotlight	2
Northeastern Visit	3
Questbridge Scholar	3
Class of 2018	4

Class of 2019 Retreat at Mount Ida College



On February 27th, the T² Class of 2019 participated in the 4th annual retreat at Mount Ida College. First off, mentors and mentees were addressed by important leaders of our community - Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor of the City of Newton; Ronald Akie, Provost, Mount Ida College; Dr. David Fleishman, Superintendent of Newton Public Schools; Melissa Hanenberger, T² Director; and Dr. Henry Turner, NNHS Principal. All of these community leaders expressed their support and commitment to the T² program and mission.

Following the welcome speeches, the workshop began with a journaling exercise, in which mentors and mentees discussed team-building questions reflective of the college admissions process, a great starting point for mentors and mentees to get to know each other and understand expectations and concerns about the college process. Mentors and mentees also participated in a Mount Ida student-led campus tours of academic buildings, residential halls, and campus centers. One of the highlights of the retreat was a comprehensive financial aid literacy presentation by Dyan Teehan, Director of Student Financial Services.

After a delicious lunch and a student panel with first generation college students, Patrick Romero-Aldaz and Alexandra Petrosinelli gave closing remarks that encouraged mentees to reflect about setting goals for the college application process, find their motivation, and get a jump start on the process. T² mentors and mentees left Mount Ida College with a stronger relationship and ready for an exciting higher education journey. Thank you Mount Ida!

Welcome T² Class of 2019

On January 18th, we welcomed the Transitioning Together Class of 2019. Thirty-five mentees and their families met with their new mentors who will be working with them for the next 18 months. The T² Team spoke about the history of the program, the timeline, and expectations for this fantastic opportunity these students have before them. Below are the demographics for our newest class:

- 100% (35 mentees) First Generation in their family to attend a traditional 4 year college in the United States
- 14% (5 mentees) English Language Learners (ELL) or former ELL (FLEP)
- 34% (12 mentees) receive Free or Reduced Lunch
- 37% (13 mentees) live with a single parent or guardian
- 14% (5 mentees) live with someone other than a biological parent
- 14% (5 mentees) in METCO / 3% (1 mentee) in NNHS Dover Legacy Scholars (DLS)

T² Team Members

- Melissa Hanenberger
*Director &
Mentor Coordinator*
- Jillian Hall
Programming Director
- Brendan Amedio
Alumni Coordinator
- Jordan Campo
Counseling & T² Intern
- Jennifer Geraghty
Mentee Coordinator



See the T² website:
www.nnst2.org
for our complete
calendar of events,
important updates,
T² in the news,
resources, and forms.
Check it out!

Alumni Spotlight

Naz Knight, T² Class of 2015 UNC Charlotte Class of 2019



1. Tell us a little about your college experience thus far.

So far I've really enjoyed my college experience. Since coming to UNC Charlotte I've had the opportunity to become really involved with leadership positions across campus. Currently, I'm a Resident Advisor, tour guide and training assistant with the Niner Guide Program as well as a member of the Multicultural Student Council. Being able to go to school out of state has helped me build a bigger network of people but has also allowed me to explore a new city/state.

2. Now that you are in college, what do you wish you had known before you got there?

One thing I wish I had known before coming to college is all of the opportunities that would be available to me. I had a few ideas of what I wanted to do, but it was a bit overwhelming going to the student activities fair and seeing all the organizations.

3. Is there anything you would do differently?

I wish I had taken the opportunity to really enjoy my first year at UNC Charlotte. When I got here, I knew the best way to meet people and make friends was to be involved. However, I think my involvement also took me away in some aspects.

4. Was there a piece of advice (or specific experience) you remember from either your mentor or T² experience that has had a big impact on your transition to college?

I remember my mentor being very supportive throughout the entire process. Whatever I needed, she helped me with whether it was looking for scholarships, editing my essay or filling out applications. I'm grateful to have had her as a mentor. Thank you Laya!

5. Is there anything else you wish we had talked about at our T² meetings? Anything else you wish your mentor had said/done?

One thing I would have liked more would have been college tours. The few that we did go on really allowed me to see different schools and decide where I did/didn't see myself.

6. What would you tell students thinking about being in Transitioning Together about the program?

I would highly suggest that you do the program. You build stronger relationships with other students, faculty and staff as well as your mentor. The mentor aspect of the program is also a great opportunity because you get someone from outside your regular support system who is invested in your success.

7. What suggestions do you have for students about to start the college application process?

I would suggest you write your essays for college applications the summer before you plan to apply. My last edit to my essay was made minutes before I submitted my applications, so having the essay done sooner definitely benefited me. I would also suggest that you all do as many college tours as you can. One of the things I have noticed as a tour guide for UNC Charlotte is how big of an impact seeing universities make on prospective students. A tour gives you the opportunity to see if you're ready to call that university or college home. Tour guides are also undergraduate students, so they can give you more insight on student life than any website or brochure ever will.

8. Please feel free to add any additional thoughts or experience you would like to share with the T² Team or the new mentees.

Good luck everyone! The college process is long, but in the end, when you find the university for you, you'll realize it was all worth it. Also, utilize your mentors! They really will do whatever they can to help you and make the process less stressful but you have to reach out first.

Class of 2019 Visits Northeastern

On March 27th, the T² Class of 2019 and their mentors headed to Northeastern University for a campus tour and a presentation from current students. During the tour, students got to see a classroom, a freshman dorm room, and the student center in order to get a complete feeling of the campus. Our tour guide, Tom, gave us great insight about his time at Northeastern and his experience in their business program. Our group very much enjoyed



hearing about Northeastern's Co-op Program, which

provides students with the chance to work during their college experience. This gives students the unique opportunity to get real world experience and build a resume while they are in college. After the campus tour, the group met with four current Northeastern students who are all receiving full-scholarships. One of the scholarships, the Torch Scholarship, is awarded to first generation students who have "overcome exceptional odds". The T² students were interested to hear that colleges do offer scholarships for first generation students! The Northeastern students talked about their experiences with their majors and co-op opportunities. One student, from upstate New York, spoke about his current co-op position in a research lab where he works in cancer immunology, and how his experience inspired him to go into cancer research rather than his original plan of going to medical school. A huge thank you to Northeastern University for an incredible day on campus! Our students had a fantastic time!



T²'s First Questbridge Scholar

Congratulations to Simi Dalyop who will be attending Wesleyan University next fall on a full-ride QuestBridge program scholarship! Simi applied to the national QuestBridge program last fall.

QuestBridge is a nationally recognized college admissions and scholarship program designed to help match high-achieving, first-generation students with admissions at selective universities and full, four-year scholarships. Eligible students complete the QuestBridge application and Common Application and rank up to twelve of QuestBridge's thirty nine college partners. Students are reviewed based on their academic strengths and personal qualities and uniqueness. If accepted, students are matched Early Decision with one of their choices in QuestBridge college partners and are offered a full, four-year scholarship. Once at college, QuestBridge offers its scholars a variety of programs, internships, and opportunities to help students succeed in college and beyond.

Simi was accepted to move on to the next phase of applying early decision to participating universities. She was then accepted at and matched with Wesleyan University where she will receive a scholarship that covers her tuition and room and board for all four years. Simi loved the warm and welcoming environment at Wesleyan when she visited through a fly-in program (that she learned about through T²!) and is looking forward to taking advantage of the great science department, lab facilities, and open curriculum next year! She plans to study neuroscience and pre-med and hopes to study abroad.



Simi Dalyop
T² Class of 2018
Questbridge Scholar
Wesleyan University,
Class of 2020

Transitioning Together Class of 2018



Colleges where the T² Class of 2018 students have been accepted:

- Alfred University
- American University
- Becker College
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Bridgewater State University
- Brown University
- Bunker Hill Community College
- Case Western Reserve University
- Chapman University
- Clark University
- Clark Atlanta University
- Columbia College Chicago
- Connecticut College
- Curry College
- Dean College
- Delaware State University
- Drexel University
- Emmanuel College
- Fitchburg State University
- Framingham State University
- Franklin Pierce University
- George Mason University
- George Washington University
- Gordon College
- Hampton University
- Hobart William Smith Colleges
- Howard University
- James Madison University
- Keene State College
- Lasell College
- Long Island University - Brooklyn
- Louisiana State University
- Manhattan College
- Mass Bay Community College
- MCPHS
- Merrimack College
- Middlebury College
- Mount Ida College
- Newbury College
- New England College
- Northeastern University
- Pace University
- Purdue University
- Quinnipiac University
- Regis College
- Rhode Island College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Roger Williams University
- Salem State University
- Simmons College
- St. Bonaventure University
- St. John's University (NY)
- Spelman College
- Springfield College
- Stonehill College
- Suffolk University
- University of Alabama
- University of Connecticut
- University of Delaware
- University of Georgia
- University of Hartford
- University of LaVerne
- University of Louisville
- UMASS Amherst
- UMASS Boston
- UMASS Dartmouth
- UMASS Lowell
- University of Maine, Orono
- University of New Hampshire
- University of Pittsburgh
- University Rhode Island
- University of Southern Maine
- University of Vermont
- University of Virginia
- Vassar College
- Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Wesleyan University
- Western New England University

By The Numbers

of Mentees = 37

% Applied to College = 100%

Accepted to 4 year College = 36

Accepted to 2 year College = 3

Awarded Merit Aid = 16

Total Merit Aid Awarded to T²

Mentees = \$631,188

Average Merit Aid = \$39,450

Total # of Applications = 330

Average # of Applications = 9

of College Acceptances = 157

Average # of Acceptances = 4

Average Acceptance Rate = 48%

The above figures are as of April 24, 2018.

“Without T², I would have been totally lost during the college process, and I honestly don't think I would be going to college. With T² I had someone to help guide me every step of the way and make getting into college a REALITY for me.”

- Class of 2018 T² mentee

Transitioning Together

www.nnhst2.org

Newton North High School

457 Walnut Street

Newtonville, MA 02460

617-559-6347