

S.T.A.T.S

Scholars Taking Action through Talent Search



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

Walking into the UNI Center for Urban Education (UNI-CUE) in Waterloo you can't miss the large, white banner printed with bold, black letters testifying of the 64-year-old Center's mission: "Educate, serve and lead." It's a declaration of the Center's raison d'être – its purpose. Also, it's the reason why, since October 2021, there is an Educational Talent Search program that is sponsored by UNI to help students and families nearly an hour away in Cedar Rapids.

As the director of the Educational Talent Search Cedar Rapids program, I am looking forward to this school year with a renewed sense of purpose, gratitude, and commitment. Recently, one of my staff shared an email from a scholar - an aspiring medical doctor. It read: *"I am also happy to be back in ETSCR/TRIO again, to see what God is going to do with/for us this year, to go on the field trips, and to go to the meeting."* Such hope and faith in TRIO and our mission renew the passion to aid every student in their journey to academic success, career readiness, and personal/social growth.

ETSCR has many new and exciting updates to share. First, we are excited to welcome a new educational counselor, Monica Leier, to our team. Ms. Leier will be responsible for recruitment, outreach, and supporting the TRIO students and families of Jefferson High School, and Roosevelt and Wilson middle schools. A native of Marion, IA, she has a Master of Arts in Teaching and has taught for more than nine years in schools in Chicago and New York. Her start date was August 21.

Second, thanks to the estate of Leonard and Evelyn Dolezal, our ETSCR scholars will be eligible to receive scholarships to pursue more than 25 majors in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University. The Dolezal scholarship will distribute around \$1.5 million annually to students from Linn, Johnson, Clayton, and Fayette counties for decades. To learn more, speak with Ms. Leier (Jefferson HS) or Mr. Harris (Washington HS). And, remember to sign up for a College Day Visit. Details are on pg. 4.

Third, we have adopted the use of technology to serve our participants and improve our processes. Our scholars will be able to access information easier and quicker – all from one platform. Additionally, we will use technology for online tutoring and to provide an interactive and innovative college readiness e-Learning curriculum.

Lastly, true to its mission to educate, serve, and lead, I am pleased to announce that this fall, UNI-CUE has formed collaborations to promote financial literacy, specifically this opportunity will benefit our TRIO families (and the global community). Get details on pg. 5.

Again, I hope this school year exceeds your expectations, and remember... TRIO works!

All the best,
Dr. Denita Gadson

ABOUT US

Who We Are. What We Do.

The University of Northern Iowa Educational Talent Search Cedar Rapids (ETSCR) is a free educational program designed to assist 6th-12th grade participants in their academic needs. As an ETSCR participant, students have access to individualized assistance and counseling with their school studies, academic planning, college and career field trips, and other services like free tutoring that promote high school and postsecondary completion.

Our ETSCR team is split between two locations: The University of Northern Iowa Center for Urban Education located in Waterloo (which is an expansion of the UNI campus designed for serving the Cedar Valley and hosts several TRIO programs), and in Cedar Rapids.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



UNI Educational Talent Search Cedar Rapids



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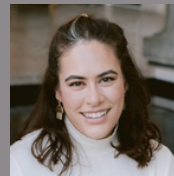


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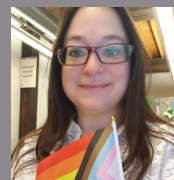


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SUMMER REWIND

R.I.S.E Summer Academy



2023 was the first year we completed a summer academy! Reaching Incredible Steps with Education, or R.I.S.E., was a 2-week program dedicated to our incoming freshmen to help ease their transition into high school. During this program, students developed strategies to navigate high school, visited college campuses, attended both fun and educational field trips, and rounded off the program with a trip to Chicago!



Cultural Experiences



Academic Success Planning



Relationship Building

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

College Visit Days Fall 2023



UPCOMING TRIPS

University of Iowa

September 12, 2023

Sign Up Deadline: September 1, 2023

<https://bit.ly/ETSCRUI2023>

Kirkwood Linn County Regional Center

September 20, 2023

Sign Up Deadline: September 1, 2023

<https://bit.ly/ETSCRKLC2023>

Iowa State University

October 3, 2023

Sign Up Deadline: September 11, 2023

<https://bit.ly/ETSCRISU2023>

UNI TRIO Student Leadership Conference

October 27, 2023

Sign Up Deadline: October 6, 2023

<https://bit.ly/ETSCRSLC2023>

University of Northern Iowa

November 1, 2023

Sign Up Deadline: October 6, 2023

<https://bit.ly/ETSCRUNI2023>

PARENT MEETING

6-8 PM | Thursday, September 7

Washington High School cafeteria

ETSCR students who plan to attend any of our fall trips should attend with their parents/guardians. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Mary Hinman at maryann.hinman@uni.edu by 9 a.m. on September 7th.



6th-8th grade scholars get ready! This Tony-award winning musical is coming to the Des Moines Civic Center this winter. Speak with an ETSCR counselor, or check for details at linktr.ee/etscedarrapids.

SCHOLAR RESOURCES

Scholarships and More

ETSCR COUNSELORS AS A RESOURCE

Contact your ETSCR counselor with any questions about the program, or support you may need. The counselor's role is to serve and assist students in their academic pursuits. They can help you create an academic plan, guide you towards scholarships, or point you in the right direction for tutoring assistance. Remember, our counselors may only be in your school one or two days a week, so be sure to reach out via email with any immediate questions or concerns.

FINANCIAL LITERACY INITIATIVES

- Starting in October, The Foothold Scholarship Committee will host a virtual and in-person one-hour, 8-week financial literacy seminar. Individuals, who attend in person, will be able to apply for a scholarship award for a \$1,000 Roth IRA.
- Community Bank & Trust is partnering with UNI-CUE to offer the Safety Net Program to guide families in saving money for life's unexpected emergencies. It is a match-savings program of up to \$300.

For details about these financial literacy initiatives contact Bethany Botchway at bethany.botchway@uni.edu.

SCHOLARSHIP DATABASE

Check out our latest scholarship, the Leonard and Evelyn Dolezal Scholarship, in our database on linktr.ee/etscedarrapids or via the QR code on pg. 6. The \$1.5 million endowment will benefit Linn County students looking to attend Iowa State University. The deadline to apply is January 10.

TUTORING

Academic tutoring in various subjects will be available to scholars this fall. Keep an eye out for an email detailing more information, and how to schedule your first tutoring session!

WHAT'S NEXT?

Accepting New Applications

Apply Now

ETSCR is currently enrolling motivated and high-potential students in middle and high school! All services, including field trips, meals, transportation, academic tutoring, and financial aid assistance are completely **free** to students after admission to the program. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds are encouraged to apply to reap the benefits of our program and reach their full potential, both now and in their pursuit of postsecondary education. Students must be enrolled in one of the following schools in fall of 2023: Franklin, McKinley, Wilson, or Roosevelt middle schools or Jefferson or Washington high schools. To be eligible, all applicants must meet federal income requirements and/or be a first-generation potential college student (meaning neither parent/guardian has a Bachelor's degree), and be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident. Students who are both low-income and first-generation will be given priority. If you are interested in submitting an application, use our [linktr.ee](https://linktr.ee/etscedarrapids) below, or see a UNI ETSCR counselor for a paper application.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Do you want to know how to apply to our program, what College Visit Days are scheduled, view our website, learn about scholarship resources, and more? Find out everything you need to know about our program by using the [linktr.ee](https://linktr.ee/etscedarrapids) link or QR code!

Bookmark this the link on your phone to stay connected.



[LINKTR.EE/ETSCEARRAPIDS](https://linktr.ee/etscedarrapids)