

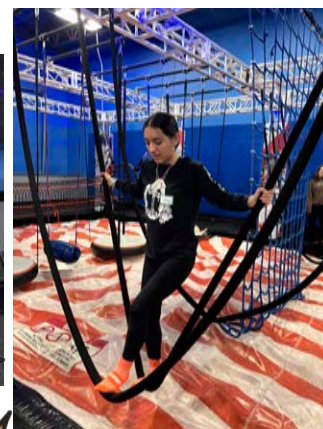
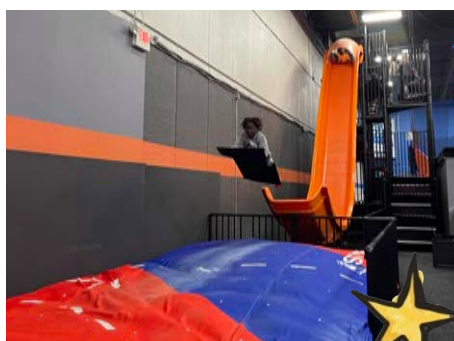
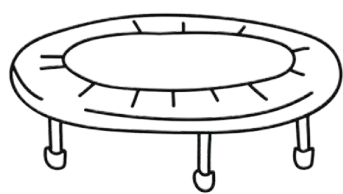
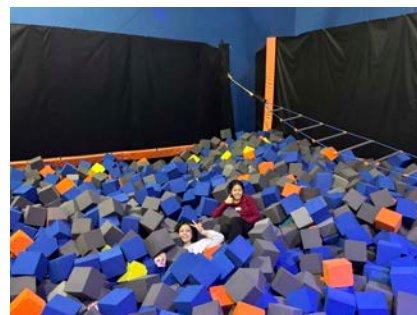


# REPORTER

## Winter Wishes From St. Olaf TRIO Educational Talent Search!

This Winter, St. Olaf TRIO ETS kicked our sleigh into high gear. We hit December like a blizzard with our 31<sup>st</sup> year of St. Olaf's TRIO ETS Mentoring Program, a joint collaboration between St. Olaf College's Physics Department, and a Minnesota TRIO workshop day.

**On December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, St. Olaf TRIO ETS Student Mentors met Humboldt High School (St. Paul, MN) Mentee students as part of the St. Olaf TRIO ETS Mentoring Program at Sky Zone in Oakdale, MN. This Field Trip is something TRIO ETS Mentors and Mentees look forward to every year. This annual Field Trip gives our Mentors and Mentees a neutral place to connect, hold conversation, and interact between not only Mentor-Mentee, but the Mentoring Program as a whole. This year we had over 100 participants bond over basketball, dodgeball, jumping, obstacle courses, sky-joust, drop-slide, foam zone, and sky-slam. After Sky Zone, Mentees and Mentors were treated to a buffet lunch in Maplewood before heading back to their respective schools. A great day together for all!

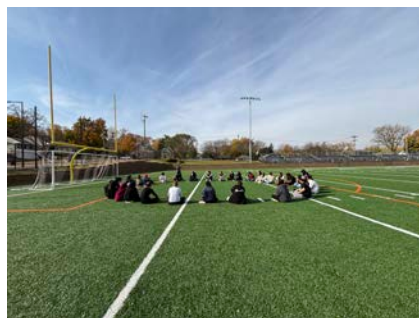
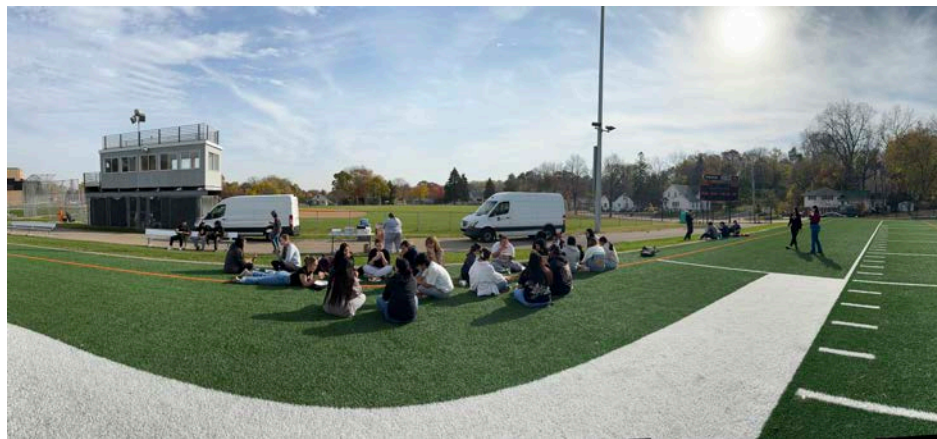


# Mentoring at Humboldt

By TRIO ETS Advisor Kali Hickman

This year, we kicked off our mentoring program at Humboldt with one 6th and 10th grade class, pairing them with St. Olaf College mentors to guide them through their academic and personal growth. We started the program in October by having the St. Olaf mentors ride down to Humboldt to meet their mentees, play some team building games, and enjoy some lunch together. Then in December, the mentors and mentees got to go to Skyzone and then a Chinese buffet for lunch! Since the start of the program in October, the mentors and mentees have had 2 letter exchanges. These letter exchanges are designed to help students communicate their thoughts, challenges, and experiences about school, jobs etc. while building trust and understanding with their mentors.

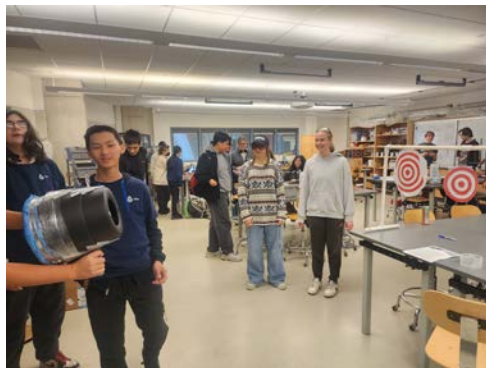
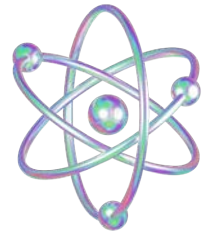
Looking ahead, there will be 3 more letter exchanges between the mentors and mentees. Then in March, we will wrap up the program by bringing the Humboldt mentees to St. Olaf to spend a day there with their mentors and get the chance to see a college campus!



# St. Olaf Physics Day

By TRIO ETS Advisor Junior Avalos

**On December 5<sup>th</sup>,** St. Olaf College's Physics Department and St. Olaf TRIO ETS held their annual Physics Day on campus in Northfield, MN. Lead by St. Olaf College faculty Eric Hazlett, Assistant Professor of Physics and Associate Professor of Physics Prabal Adhikari, visiting students were able to participate in a rocket launch on campus and hear first-hand from college students about individual Physics studies that are a part of the curriculum at St. Olaf College. Student visitors from Community of Peace Academy (St. Paul, MN) and Humboldt students also had an opportunity to exchange questions with an international St. Olaf College student panel from a background of varied nationalities, languages, experiences, and studies.



# Meet Our New ETS Advisor!

Hello! My name is Antonio Moore and I am excited to be your TRIO ETS senior academic advisor! I have earned a bachelor degree in Sociology with a minor in ethnic studies and also obtained my masters in Educational leadership all from Minnesota State University, Mankato. I am thrilled to be part of such a great team and look forward to working on strengthening the Mentor Program and working with students to improve their academic performance. As a proud TRIO alum with over eight years of experience working with TRIO programs I am determined to demonstrate a deep commitment to helping students achieve their academic and career goals.

A little more about me. I am originally from Chicago but was raised most of my life in Minnesota. I am considered first generation because I was the first out of my parents to earn a bachelor's degree. When I was in high school I was clueless about college and just knew my mom said I needed to go. I joined Upward Bound and was educated about all the things I needed to do such as making sure I was maintaining a good GPA, researching colleges/scholarships and applying to them, and applying for financial aid by completing the FAFSA. Doing all this helped me to obtain a college education and earn a degree. TRIO ETS has the same goals of helping students with college planning and providing great support to help achieve your goals and have a plan after high school. This is why I am excited to be part of the TRIO ETS team. To be able to help students like you be college ready. a college education and earn a degree. TRIO ETS has the same goals of helping students with college planning and providing great support to help achieve your goals and have a plan after high school. This is why I am excited to be part of the TRIO ETS team. To be able to help students like you be college ready.



During my free time I enjoy spending time with family and friends and traveling to new places. My favorite place I traveled to after I graduated from college was Costa Rica. That was my very first time traveling outside the states. It was great to experience a new culture by learning about their traditions and trying new foods. I love watching new shows on Netflix and Disney+ and listening to music that sounds good to the ears. I am a huge fan of the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe). I have seen all the MCU movies and would say that my favorite MCU movies would be "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" and "Black Panther". Something unique about me is that I can play 4 different kinds of instruments. I can play the trumpet, trombone, saxophone, and clarinet. I look forward to meeting everyone and learning more about you all!



# -Senior Spring To-Do Checklist-

By TRIO ETS Academic Advisor Aztlan Thao

Hello ETS Seniors! With spring around the corner, we want to remind you of where we'd like you to be in the college and FAFSA application process! Remember, applying to colleges and filling out your FAFSA doesn't mean you have to go to college, but doing so ensures that you have that option available to you! All of the ETS advisors will continue to call seniors to our office to fill out college applications and FAFSA with you!

Below is a brief timeline of deadlines:

## **February**

1. If you are selected for FAFSA verification, complete the necessary paperwork as soon as possible. You can reach out to your ETS advisor if you are unsure if you have been selected for verification.
2. Start researching different scholarships and their deadlines.

## **March**

1. Check your school email and make an appointment with your ETS advisor to review your financial aid letters until you understand them completely
2. Start applying for scholarships! Even if you don't think you'll get it, apply anyway! The more scholarship money you get, the fewer loans you'll have to take out.

## **April**

1. Decide which, if any, college you want to attend, notify the school of your decision, and send in a deposit by MAY 1st!  
Note: A deposit is needed to secure your place in the class. If you are planning to live in dorms or other campus housing, another housing deposit may be required. If this is a hardship on your family, you can call the college to make different arrangements. They are flexible!
2. If you are not planning on going to college, make sure you have an alternate plan set. Be sure to talk this over with your caretakers and your ETS advisors! We are here to help regardless!
3. Meet with your academic or ETS advisor to make sure you are on track to graduate high school!

## **May**

1. Celebrate! Despite everything going on in your life and everything that has happened with covid, virtual learning, and many other road bumps, you still managed to accomplish so much!
2. Figure out what high school transcripts will be sent to your future college, and how they will need to be sent.
3. Find out about any TRIO SSS, multicultural, or student support programs at your future college and find out how to get involved! Let your ETS advisor know if you need help with this.

# Parents: Paying for College

By TRIO ETS Academic Advisor Aztlan Thao

Did you know that college students are graduating with an average of \$30,000 in school loan debt? That is hard to imagine, but that is a lot of money! Here are some steps you can take TODAY to make sure you are not in over your head with college debt by the time you graduate.

## 1. **Encourage your student to take classes in High School that will count towards a college degree!**

Some of these include PSEO, CIS, AP, IB and Career and Technical Education classes. They are all **FREE** and they allow your student to earn High School and College **CREDIT** at the same time! Not sure on how to sign up for one of these classes or programs? No worries! All your student needs to do is talk to their school counselor or ETS advisor to get started!

## 2. **Stay involved!**

Whether your student is in sports, yearbook club, Boys and Girls club, theater or volunteering to give back to the community, they all count! Being involved in extracurricular activities will make your student a great candidate for their colleges and scholarship applications.

## 3. **Start a College fund!**

Instead of buying expensive gifts for birthdays, holidays and special occasions, consider putting part of your money away for your student's future. These include a piggy bank or opening a savings account for them at your local bank.

## 4. **Apply for SCHOLARSHIPS!**

Encourage your student to talk to their school counselor, teachers or an ETS advisor to find out more about what scholarships are available. Scholarships can come from religious communities, local banks and even your place of employment. These institutions often have scholarship funds available, you just have to ask and do some research.

## 5. **Complete your FAFSA in a timely manner**

Filing your taxes and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) during your student's senior year are the first steps to receiving any type of federal financial aid. Many scholarships, such as the Power of You, require it and your student can't qualify for grants or aid unless you submit your FAFSA. ETS collaborates with high schools for annual FAFSA night; where we help students and their families to complete their FAFSA application and go over the financial aid process. Have your student talk to their school counselor or an ETS advisor about upcoming FAFSA night!

## 6. **Review your Financial Aid Package with an ETS advisor**

ETS is here to help your student! Do not be afraid to set up a meeting with an ETS advisor to review financial aid award letters; we will explain what everything means and answer any of your questions. We can also help you compare the costs of the various colleges your students have applied to so that they can make an informed decision about what college they will attend.

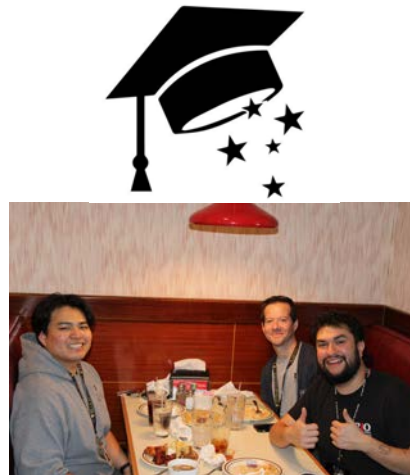
# -TRIO ETS visits National College Fair-

By TRIO ETS Academic Advisor Aztlan Thao

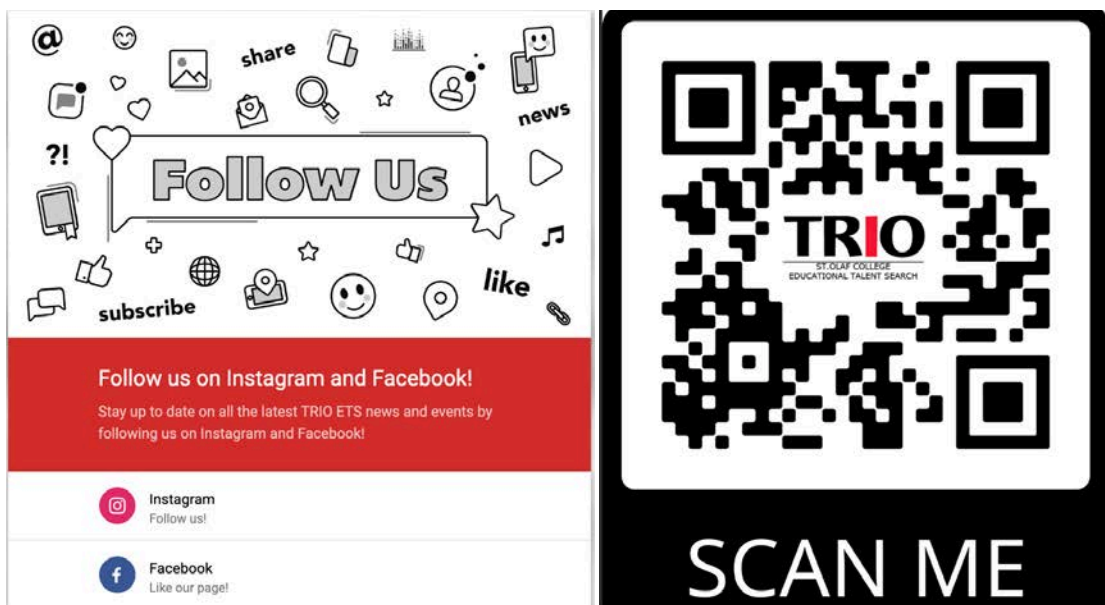
**On Wednesday, October 23rd**, TRIO ETS advisors brought 9th-12th grade students from Community of Peace Academy, Edison High School, and Humboldt High School to the National College Fair at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The students had the incredible opportunity to explore booths from hundreds of colleges and universities from across the country.

At the fair, students engaged directly with college representatives to learn about admission requirements, scholarship opportunities, majors, extracurricular programs, and more. They attended information sessions, participated in interactive activities, and received valuable resources to help them navigate the college application process.

Many students expressed excitement and left feeling inspired about their future plans for higher education. This field trip allowed them to expand their understanding of the variety of post-secondary options available and connect their goals with actionable steps.



# Follow TRIO ETS On All Our Social Media Pages!

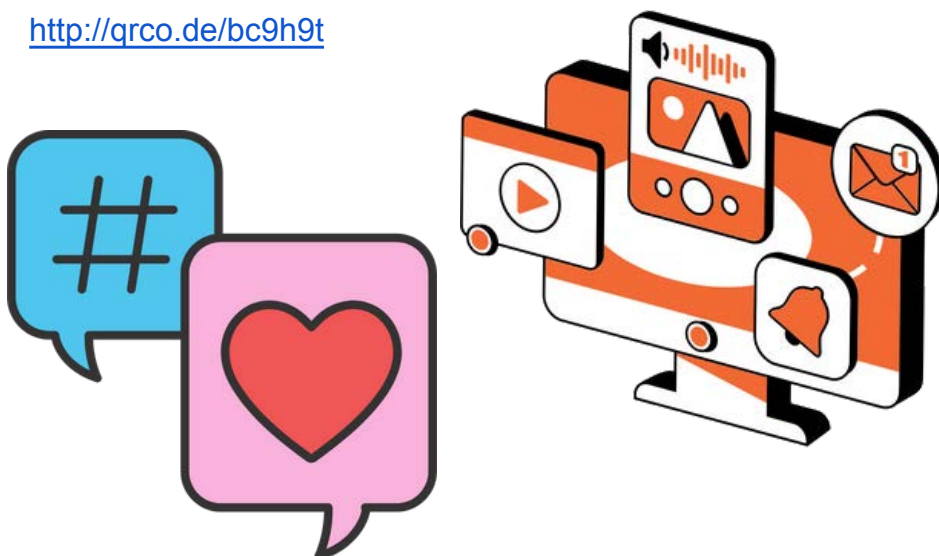


Use your Cell Phone Camera to Scan the QR Code and follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and our Student Google Site!

Instagram: [instagram.com/trioets/](https://www.instagram.com/trioets/)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/trioetsstolaf/>

<http://qrco.de/bc9h9t>





# St. Olaf's TRIO ETS Impact & Involvement on campus

5 Student Work Community Service-ETS Work Study Staff

3 New Hire Underclassmen

2 Returning Senior Staff Mentors

1 International Student

46 St. Olaf Mentors volunteering in our 30th Mentoring Program year on St. Olaf College campus.

38 Returning Mentors

19 TRIO SSS Students

19 Page Scholars

10 St. Olaf First Year Students

8 Returning Student Mentors

1/4th of Mentors being First Year Oles



A total of 46 mentor and mentee pairings. (46 mentors + 46 mentees).

## Director's Note

By St. Olaf TRIO ETS Director, Juan Telles

This past Fall, the St. Olaf TRIO ETS team went right to work to make connections with ETS participants, recruit new participants, and look for ways to build better partnerships with our schools. They also had one-to-one meetings with the 12th graders to prepare them for college applications and to complete their FAFSA. The mentor program brought back the Mentee school visit trip, and we are partnering with two classes (6th & 10th grade) from Humboldt High School in St. Paul. We included some St. Olaf college students participating in the St. Olaf TRIO ETS program. Again, This year, we partnered with the Physics course taught by Eric Hazlett at St. Olaf College to bring ETS students to campus to experience the Physics labs and participate in the 2nd year students' Physics projects. This is becoming an Annual Event!

I am very proud of our progress this year. I am also proud of the St. Olaf TRIO ETS team for their dedication to the program and hard work!

This spring, we look forward to providing more college visits and bringing the mentees to St. Olaf College so they can experience what it is like to be a college student.

This Spring, contact your St. Olaf TRIO ETS advisor for an update on what's happening in your school. Stay warm!

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Address Service Requested

**Educational Talent Search (ETS)** is a TRIO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education and sponsored by St. Olaf College. The ETS program annually assists 700 middle and high school students as they explore their academic and vocational options and set goals for the future. ETS Academic Advisors, in cooperation with school counselors and teachers, provide preparatory services through workshops, classroom activities, and group and individual counseling sessions. St. Olaf College Educational Talent Search works at the following five schools: St. Paul Community of Peace Academy, St. Paul Humboldt High School, Minneapolis Northeast Middle School, and Minneapolis Edison Senior High School.

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