

Transitioning Together

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T²: Who are we?

The Transitioning Together Program is our mentoring program for first generation students in the process of applying to college. Each student and their family is paired with a mentor from the Newton North Community who has been through the college planning process and connects them to numerous resources throughout the year. They actively participate in programming workshops around college matching, financial aid, essay writing and much more. They also attend college visits and workshops throughout the year.



Common App Meeting – 11/14/13

On November 14th, our Transitioning Together Team of mentees, their families and mentors gathered for our Common Application workshop. During this productive time, we had our program coordinator, Sarah Hoffman, conduct a basic overview of the Common Application Process. Students edited their

college essays and Mentors were by their side to provide suggestions and support. We have various programming meetings throughout the year.

Pictured above: (from top right to left) Sarah Hoffman (*Programming Coordinator*), Melissa Hanenberger (*Mentor Coordinator*), Sherry Liang (*Mentee*), and Radka Grein (*Mentee Coordinator*)

Calling all Mentors!

If you have the desire to help a student and their family explore the college application process and work one-on-one with students throughout the year, then this program is for you.



Why should I mentor a student?

Mentoring helps:

- Create an interest in education and training beyond high school
- Increase scholastic ability and performance
- Give students hope for their future

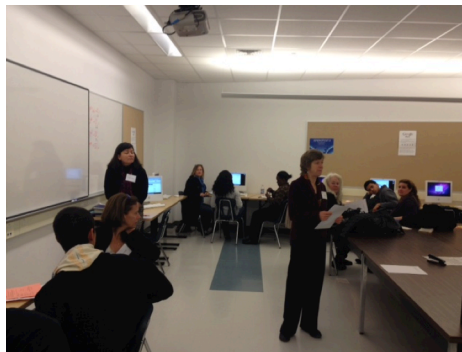
What makes a good mentor?

- Being enthusiastic, reliable and consistent
- Having an interest in working with youth
- Following program policies and procedures

How do I become a mentor?

- Contact –Melissa Hanenberger-
melissa_hanenberger@newton.k12.ma.us
- Optional -Attend an orientation workshop
 - November 19, 2013 –Newton North Library at 6:00pm

“Who knows, maybe they’ll be a mentor to someone else, and with a simple chain reaction, you’ve made the world a better place.”



A Mentor's Perspective

*Featured article in Local
Newton Paper and in
Newtonite!*

Newton North is making the college process more accessible and you can help.

As parents, we are always involved in the schools, but my most rewarding experience to date has been as a mentor in Newton North's new Transitioning Together program, also known as T2. The program pairs volunteer mentors with students at North for whom going to college seems like an unobtainable dream; low-income students, minority students & some who are the first in their families to go to college in America. There are monthly meetings during the school year and lots of support. Principal Jen Price and the school council have been instrumental in making this program a reality and in making the college process easier for the whole community.

I remember feeling very overwhelmed when my oldest began thinking about college. I wondered how many kids, even here in Newton, really need more help to find the right next step to make the most of their talents and their education to date. In one of our first meetings we heard

from a bright and talented athlete who had applied and got into the school of his choice the year before. He got a scholarship, but no one walked him through the financial aid process so when he arrived on campus he found he had a large bill waiting for him. He left and transferred to a community college. He said if Transitioning Together existed the year before, and he was in the program it would have made an incredible difference for him.

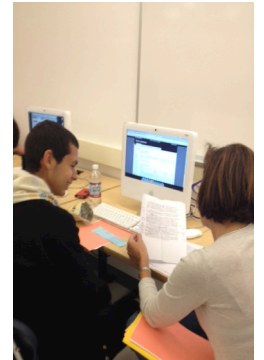
The young woman I mentor is bright and thoughtful. She has traveled from Boston to Newton for the last 12 years for school and has taken on many responsibilities. I have been very fortunate to get to know her and her family. We have gone to college nights together and talked about what she hopes to do with her very bright future. Earlier this week, all the mentors, mentees and many family members sat together in a computer room at North with college counselors on hand encouraging these kids as they worked on their common applications. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for them!

This first class of Transitioning Together students were hand selected as 15 kids who could really benefit from some extra attention during

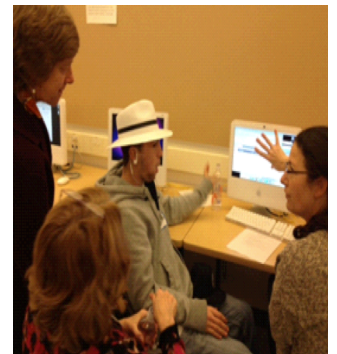
this process. Of course, there are so many more who need help. This year Principal Jen Price hopes to expand the program to 25 juniors. We are looking for volunteer mentors from the Newton community who have had some relatively recent experience of the college application process & who are willing to help. Please come to an informational meeting on Tuesday November 19th from 6pm to 6:45pm at Newton North High School or you can email the PTSO about your interest at <http://www.northptso.org>.

Marsha Kessler

Newton North Parent



"It takes a village to raise a child."



Transitioning Together Team

Radka Grein
Mentee Coordinator

Melissa Hanenberger
Mentor Coordinator

Sarah Hoffman
Programming Coordinator

Kelly Murguia
Logistics Coordinator

Jennifer Price
Principal

College Visits This Year



This year has been a fun whirlwind of events. Our students have been all over Massachusetts. Starting back in September, we headed off to Northeastern. In October, we went to UMass Boston, and UMass Lowell. The students and mentors traveled together and explored their options. They heard first-hand from current college students and college admissions officers on what it takes to get to and through college. Thank you mentees, families and mentors for a great semester!



Thank you to our School Council

"It has been a very good experience for me. Our mentor has come along and has been pushing him (mentee) along, which helps me push him...it has been a very helpful program."
Mentee Parent

Without the effort of our School Council, Transitioning Together would not be in existence. Every year School Council seeks out a meaningful project that will benefit the Newton North Community. Last Spring, they identified a goal trying to focus on a gap that existed in college transitioning first generation students. They brainstormed and researched possibilities. They found a possible solution of pairing Newton North Community members that have been through the college application process and could relate to them. Through this effort students were identified and mentors volunteered to be part of this initiative. The PTSO has helped in providing training for the mentors, as well as fundraised a great deal for this program. We are very appreciative of all the efforts of the Newton North Community and look forward to expanding the program in the spring to double in size, as well as double in impact.

