

Transitioning Together

T²: Who are we?

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The Transitioning Together Program (T²) is a mentoring program launched to ensure that every student and family has access to the resources needed to pursue post-secondary education. T² provides step-by-step support to Newton North's first generation students and their parents in the process of applying for college. The goal of T² is to help these students identify and access the college that is right for them.



Welcome, 2015 Cohort!

On February 4, 2014, we welcomed our Class of 2015 Cohort of 30 mentees, their families and 28 mentors for our first meeting of the year! Dr. Jennifer Price spoke about the program and expressed her excitement that we are starting this process earlier than senior year. The timeline and expectations were introduced and then mentees, mentors and families all attended Junior Parent Night together.

Mentees:

- 83% (25 mentees) First generation in their family to attend college in the United States
- 13% (4 mentees) in METCO
- 27% (6 mentees English Language Learner, 2 mentees FLEP-Former ELL
- 23% (7 mentees) in Dover Legacy Scholars (DLS)
- 55% (16 mentees) living with a single parent or guardian
- 63% (19 mentees) receiving Free or Reduced Lunch
- 13% (4 mentees) living with someone other than either one of their biological parents

Mentors:

- 10 Past NNHS Parents
- 9 Current NNHS Parents
- 1 Retired NNHS Principal
- 1 Retired NNHS counseling Department Chair
- 7 Members of the Newton Community



Dr. David Fleishman, Superintendent of NPS, welcoming our 2015 Cohort before Junior Parent Night.

“It has been a great experience for me because before I was hands-off in this process just like my mother was. Our mentor has come along and has been pushing him, which helps me push him...”

– Parent of 2014 Cohort

Oh the Places You Will Go!

Updates on our 2014 Cohort

Total # of Students = 13

Total # of Applications Submitted = 115

Average # of Colleges Applied to per student = 8.8

Total # of Colleges Accepted into = 23

Total # of Colleges Accepted into as of April 8, 2014 = 23

- Anna Maria College
- Bridgewater State University
- Cornell University
- Dean College
- Delaware State University
- Drexel University
- Elms College
- Endicott College
- Howard University
- Iona College
- Johnson C Smith University
- Lasell College
- Mass Bay College
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Southern New Hampshire University
- University of New Hampshire
- Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Wheelock College
- Worcester State University
- UMASS Boston
- UMASS Dartmouth
- University of Philadelphia
- University of Tampa



Ms. Joyelle Wright (mother), Ms. Vicky Stein (mentor), and Dimitri Wright (mentee) are happy after reviewing Dimitri's financial award for college next year!

JUNIORS ON TRACK: Financial Aid 101

Many students and parents come into Transitioning Together uncertain of their futures and what college means for their families, but after our programming, our T² students started to understand that they don't need to fear. They begin to see there is a way, to ask lots of questions and to have hope for the future. Intentional programming and speakers gives access to our cohorts, breaks barriers and empowers families. On March 27, our 2015 cohort gathered in the film lecture hall for a presentation on financing college. Guest lecturer from *Strategies For College*, Todd Weaver, explained some essential messages for students, parents and mentors. From concepts like "understanding the base year" to "calculating your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)," Weaver was able to elucidate the financial aspects of post-secondary opportunities. He provided his top six "critical tactics" for College Financial Aid.

Tactic #1: Understand the concept of THE BASE YEAR and plan accordingly.

Tactic #2: Understand that "Aid Eligibility" is determined by formulas, but in most cases aid eligibility does not equal college funding.

Tactic #3: Do not be deceived by sticker price.

Tactic #4: Run the numbers! Always calculate your Expected Family Contributions (EFC) and learn how to reduce your EFC.

Tactic #5: Know how to pronounce "FAFSA," know how to locate it, and know how to properly complete it-EARLY!

Tactic #6: Know how to effectively fill out a CSS Profile and CSS Profile Supplements for business owners and non-custodial parents.



Junior mentees, parents and mentors gathered for a financial aid presentation with guest lecturer, Todd Weaver.

"It has also been a great experience for me. Not only am I getting be with this student and her family, but also I am able to see and compare the whole application process. My mentee is incredibly enthusiastic and her family is incredibly warm and engaged in the process, so for me it feels good to be part of it and to feel like I am helping."

– Mentor of 2014 Cohort

"My mentor has been the best. She just kept me on track every single day. She emailed me at least ten times a day; you think I'm joking. She checked over my essay like 25 times. She made me go to people to review my essay too. She is amazing. This program is amazing."

– Student of 2014 Cohort

Transitioning Together Team

Radka Grein Mentee Coordinator

Radka has a Master's in Special Education and Education of Art from Charles University in Prague. Experience with systems in Czech Republic, Japan, Austria and UK. Prior to JNHS, she worked as a special needs teacher and coordinator of political events for the Parliament of the Czech Republic.

Melissa Hanenberger Mentor Coordinator

Melissa has been a College and Career Center Counselor since 2012. She previously worked as an Assistant Principal and Guidance Counselor. She has Masters' degrees in Counseling Psychology from Boston College and in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Sarah Hoffman Programming Coordinator

Sarah has been a college counselor at public/private schools and college admission at Smith, McGill, College of Charleston. She is also an Harvard Graduate School of Education Alum.

Kelly Murguia

Logistics Coordinator
Kelly joins us as a HGSE Principal Intern. Prior to this, Kelly was an English as a Second Language teacher in San Antonio, TX. She will be headed back to Texas to work with Teach For America as a Manager of Teacher Leadership & Development.

Jennifer Price Principal

Dr. Price has worked at North since 2006. She is dedicated to the work of creating equal access to an excellent education.

SPRING College Visit



Our Class of 2015 Cohort has started to visit colleges already! On Tuesday, April 8th, over 30 mentees and their mentors went to Northeastern to explore the campus and hear about the programs offered. It was a great learning experience for each of them.

We are excited to go on more college visits together next year, but many of them decided to venture off with their parents and mentors during April Break. Great job, students!

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

May 14th:

6:15PM Class of 2015 Cohort T² MEETING

7:00 College Admission Panel for Junior Families

June 3rd:

6:30pm Class of 2014 Cohort T² CLOSING MEETING- Getting Ready for College & Course Planning

June 11th:

6:30pm Class of 2015 Cohort T² Meeting-recent graduating T2 mentees come back to present their experiences, college essay preparation & summer timeline



Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority presenting to Class of 2014 Cohort on April 7, 2014.