

Transitioning Together

A mentor program for first generation students applying to college

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T² Team Members

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Programming Director

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Alumni Coordinator



See the T² website:
www.nnhst2.org
for our complete
calendar of events,
important updates,
resources and forms.

Check it out!

Fall Focus

The Transitioning Together Class of 2020 is officially seniors! The students, their mentors and families gathered for our first group meeting on September 22nd. The first part of the meeting was dedicated for catch-up time - while most of the students and mentors did connect over the summer, everyone needed time to make a game plan for the fall with finalizing their college lists, filling out applications and going on college visits.



T² mentees and mentors at UMASS Boston

We then introduced our amazing guest, Ms. Franci DaLuz, Admissions Coordinator at Bunker Hill Community College. This is Franci's fourth time presenting to the T² group. Franci is a huge fan and advocate of our program - as an immigrant from Brazil herself, Franci told the group her story of going from an undocumented high school student, to beginning her college career at community college, transferring to UMass-Boston and eventually getting a Master's Degree at Boston University. Franci shared the following wisdom with the group:

- ***The importance of asking questions- as a first generation college student, "you don't know what you don't know."***
- ***Advocating for first generation support- make sure your college campus can answer the question- "what support do you have for first generation college students?"***
- ***Use your mentor and continue to seek out new mentors for the rest of your life. These people can have a huge impact on your future and provide you with the necessary emotional support along the way.***

After Franci's outstanding presentation, Ms. Hall presented a brief overview of what T² programming was coming up during the fall. Highlights include: two field trips - UMass-Boston in September and Framingham State in October, the annual NNHS College Nights, an application workshop, and two financial aid workshops. Our goal is that the students feel an incredible amount of support over the next few months as they will really be in the thick of college and financial aid applications! The group then headed to Senior Parent Night in the Auditorium, an event for all Newton North seniors. This event, presented by the NNHS Counseling Department, was an introduction to senior year and gave students the opportunity to hear from various school members, including a breakout session with each student's school counselor.

We hope that the T² seniors are starting the year feeling well supported and energized to officially begin the college application process and planning for next year. We are so excited to work with them and though it may feel like a long road ahead, we know each and every one of them will be successful!

T² Student Spotlight:

Tanaja Jordan T² Class of 2015,
Framingham State University Class of 2019

TRANSITIONING TOGETHER's Alumni Coordinator, Brendan Amedio, asks Tanaja some questions about her experience:

1. Congratulations on graduating—what a huge accomplishment! Tell us a little about your experience at Framingham State (classes, clubs, extracurriculars, jobs, etc.) Did you feel well prepared for college?

I found myself involved at FSU since day one and I loved everything about it! At FSU they have plenty of clubs and organizations, and I wanted to dive into as many as I can so I can be more involved on campus and meet new people. During my first year I joined WDJM which is the radio station at FSU, and I had my own radio show for about two years. While being in that club I served as the treasurer, assistant general manager and then, general manager. It was a lot to manage that club, because not many people knew about it but I always made sure people knew and spread the word via social media, word of mouth, etc. Aside from the radio station, I also joined a few other clubs such as Black Student Union, Brother 2 Brother and M.I.S.S which stands for Motivation, Intersectionality, Solidarity and Sisterhood. Those are affinity clubs at my school and it made me feel more welcomed as a person of color at a PWI. As the years went on I became more involved in M.I.S.S. and my junior year I was the Treasurer and senior year I was Vice President. M.I.S.S. is a sisterhood on campus for women of color and a safe space for them. I hold that sisterhood to my heart dearly because it really helped a lot of women of color find who they are, make friends and really break out of their shells! It was always an empowering thing to see. I also became a Resident Assistant during my junior year and my senior year. At FSU that is a paid position. It's a great learning experience for anyone who is interested in helping others solve problems, face fears, or just need a shoulder to lean on. I highly suggest it! Alongside all of that I worked at Forever 21 my first two years in college. It wasn't too bad managing working, extracurriculars and being a student because I had been doing that in high school already. I believe I was very well prepared for college. Newton North had many great classes, teachers and resources available for us.

2. What kinds of supports were available to you and other first generation college students at FSU? *FSU has a program called Generation One which was for students who were the first in their families to attend college. It was helpful throughout college, especially freshman year because I was brand new to it all and had to figure it out on my own alongside the help of my wonderful T² mentor Jan Mazzone.*

3. How has it been entering the “real world” since graduation? *It is HARD! I was so ready to graduate but now that I'm in the “real world” I want to go back to school with less worries. I'll be starting a full time job as a social worker technician at the Department of Children and Families in Framingham so that will be my ultimate taste of the “real world” and I honestly cannot wait. It might be a lot but it's all worth it.*

4. What are some pieces of advice that you recall from your T² experience that had an impact on your college experience? *What I remember is that they always told me that no matter where I end up I will do great and I will love it! I was told to do the best I can and not think negatively about my school choice because FSU was not a part of my plan, but it was what was best for me financially.*

5. What would you tell future students about the Transitioning Together program? *I would tell them that Transitioning Together is a life changer and if you are stuck with the college process the mentors are absolutely amazing in every possible way. Not only the mentors but the college counselors at NNHS as well!*

6. We are going to have a new group of students (The Class of 2021–T²'s 8th cohort!!) starting the college process. Any advice!? *My biggest piece of advice is to apply to a lot of schools within the state! Even if you may not want to stay in Massachusetts you should still apply to a lot of schools here because eventually you can transfer out or end up loving your school and staying. You should also apply for as many scholarships as you can. There are many resources out there available to you.*



Congratulations Class of 2019



For the sixth year in a row, every T² senior was accepted into at least one 2 or 4 year college. We celebrated their successes at our Closing Ceremony on May 28, 2019. Former T² mentees served on a panel to provide advice for our graduates. Dr. Turner thanked our mentors for their dedication to their mentees, and T² Alumni Coordinator Brendan Amedio provided tips for a successful entry into college. A fantastic night for all!

MENTEE	MENTOR	COLLEGE
Joao Aquino Vieira	Scott Steele	UMASS-BOSTON
Alianna Arias	Aixa Beauchamp	UMASS-BOSTON
Anisha Aziz	Deana Lew	UMASS-BOSTON
Kyla Barbosa	Kym Williams	ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
Stacey Cairra	Maureen Resnick	BRYANT UNIVERSITY
Shaniay Chatelain	Karen Clay	FRAMINGHAM STATE
Derek Chen	Rachel Freed	FRAMINGHAM STATE
Xu Chen	Michelle Fineblum	UMASS-AMHERST
Conan Devlin	Angela Healy	MERRIMACK COLLEGE
Robert Doherty	Leslie Mehrez	UMASS-BOSTON
Jeremy Freed	David Glickman	ROGER WILLIAMS UNIV.
Tina Huang	Barbara Guilfoile	UMASS-BOSTON
Nia Hyppolite	Ellen Forman	UMASS-AMHERST
Jordan Jasset	Jan Mazzone	SACRED HEART UNIV.
Carolann Leger	Carissa Lellos	MASS BAY COMM. COLL.
Joyce Li	Janet Wertheimer	UMASS-AMHERST
Angela Lin	Mary Lee	UMASS-AMHERST
Jasmine Lin	Laura Rossier	BENTLEY UNIVERSITY
Angela Liu	Barbara Guilfoile	BENTLEY UNIVERSITY
Oscar Mendez-Sosa	David Jones	FRAMINGHAM STATE
Filippo Menozzi	Joel Bloom	UNIVERSITA BOCCONI
Yuqi Ou	Karen O'Reilly	BELOIT COLLEGE
Lisa Pennel	Eliza Lewis	MCGILL UNIVERSITY
Riley Perl	Eydie Balsam	ROGER WILLIAMS UNIV.
Aliana Ralph	Donna Rigg	UMASS-AMHERST
Manny Salguero	Joel Bloom	MASS BAY COMM. COLL.
Andressa Silva	Kathy Ballou	AMHERST COLLEGE
JT Taylor	Henry Turner	SALEM STATE UNIV.
Angelo Visciano	Bob Cowden	U. S. MARINE CORPS
Leo Wang	Jeff Sung	UMASS-AMHERST
Tammy Yang	Barbara Jellinek	SIMMONS UNIVERSITY
Chen Wen Ye	Eileen Morrison	UMASS-BOSTON
Hechen Zhang	Charlotte Chen	BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
Katie Zhao	Karen Axelrod	UNIV. OF MICHIGAN



Class of 2020 T² Mentees Participate as Mayor's Summer Interns



This summer many of our T² mentees participated in the Summer High School Internship Program at Newton City Hall. This program strives to “serve as a hands-on learning experience for young adults in the Newton community.” Students dedicate 10-15 hours per week for six weeks over the summer to an internship placement in local businesses, non-profit organizations, and city departments.

The Summer High School Internship Program “provides on the job experience and exposure to the world of work.” Students, in addition to their time spent at internship placements, also attend a weekly workshop with Quinn Etchie, Director of Youth Services at City Hall, to build skills such as interviewing, financial literacy, and team building. Ms. Etchie spoke very highly of the eight T² students who participated this summer!

Transitioning Together Interns and their Internship Site:

Alain Belcher (not pictured) - *Newton Wellesley Hospital*
 Tiffany Chen - *Lasell Village*
 Nathan Dorval - *ThreadED*
 Melton Fan - *Brigham & Women's Hospital, Channing Division*
 Hefi Jiang - *Brigham & Women's Hospital, Channing Division*
 Bianca Nascimento - *Meadowscaping for Biodiversity*
 Vy Trieu - *The Carroll Center for the Blind*
 Sammi Yang - *Lasell Village*

T² Partnership with Summit Education

Once again this year, T² partnered with Summit Educational Group in Newton to offer Class of 2020 mentees free ACT test prep. Twenty T² mentees received 25 hours of tutoring, including two diagnostic tests, to prepare for the June & July 2019 ACT test. On average, mentees who participated in T² Test Prep increased their ACT score by an average of **four** points. We are extremely grateful for our continued partnership as our mentees became more familiar with the ACT format and learned essential test-taking strategies.



Call for T² Class of 2021

Are you interested in going to college? Would you be the first in your family to attend college in the US? Are you nervous about the whole process? Would you welcome help? **T² is here for you.** Please visit www.nnhst2.org to learn more and stop by the College and Career Center (Room 110) for an application. Students will be notified of their T² acceptance status by **Friday, December 20, 2019.**

Important dates for the Incoming Class of 2020:

- 1) **Thursday, November 14** : X Block Ice Cream Social - An opportunity for prospective mentees to talk to current Transitioning Together mentees and ask questions about the program
- 2) **Friday, November 22**: T² Application Deadline
- 3) **Thursday, January 16**: First T² Meeting and Junior Family Night



Transitioning Together
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