

Transitioning Together

A mentor program for first generation students applying to college

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T² Team Members

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Fall Focus

It's been a busy fall for the Class of 2016 in our T² program! Our first meeting was with Ken Sawada, Director of Admission at Newbury College, who spoke about the importance of communicating with colleges and meeting deadlines in the application and financial aid process.

We're both bringing colleges to campus to visit us and taking our T² students to see local college campuses. For two nights in a row we had almost 200 schools pack our cafeteria. Many of them shared their opportunities specifically for first generation families.

T² staff, mentors and their mentees will visit a wonderful variety of Boston area schools this fall. So far we've seen SNHU, Wentworth, Emmanuel, and UMASS Boston. We've had general tours and also learned about admission and retention programs designed for applicants looking at college for the first time. Framingham State University is up next!



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

T² mentees, mentors and team members at Emmanuel College, UMASS Boston, and Wentworth Institute of Technology (top to bottom).



T² Student Spotlight:

Naz Knight, T² Class of 2015

Framingham State University, Class of 2019

T²'s Alumni Coordinator, Rich Labeledz asks Naz some questions about her experience.

Tell us a little about your college experience thus far.

So far college has been alright. It is definitely a bigger adjustment than I thought it would be. My biggest struggle has been dealing with having four professors with teaching styles that don't necessarily work for me. I'm more of a visual learner and they all just lecture at us. However, I've become a member of the Black Student Union and the RAMMS program which is similar to T2. They help you transition during your first year by matching you with a faculty and peer mentor. My faculty mentor is the Dean of Students and my peer mentor is a sophomore from the same department as me, so being involved with them has made it a little easier because I have two people who really know the school but with two different perspectives.

Now that you are in college, what do you wish you had known before you got there?

A lot of people kind of turn their nose up at state schools and to be honest, I was one of those people prior to actually coming to one. But I realized there's nothing wrong with going to state schools, especially smaller, less popular ones. When I got to campus and started classes I realized there wasn't anything wrong with me being here. I'm not treated like less of a student because I came to FSU instead of a private college. There's such a big emphasis on the name of your school. But it's so much better and less stressful when you realize the point of college is to get a degree and it doesn't matter where you go to do that.

Is there anything you would do differently?

I wish I would have talked to more students who were already going to Framingham. The tour guides and student representatives tell you what life is like on campus but you get more honest answers from students who aren't volunteers. For example, it would have been nice to know most of the buildings don't have AC.

Was there a piece of advice you remember from either your mentor or T2 experience that has had a big impact on your transition to college?

Talking about time management is one of the things I keep in mind. I either have early morning classes or late afternoon/evening classes so there's a huge gap in my schedule. But I've been good about using my time wisely.

Is there anything else you wish we had talked about



Naz with her mentor and her mom

at our T² meetings?

No, T² was very thorough and helpful throughout the whole college process. The same goes for my mentor; there wasn't anything that she missed.

What would you tell students thinking about being in Transitioning Together about the program?

“Do it! T² is dedicated to helping you out and you need help whether or not you believe it.”

There will be times where you might think things are repetitive or boring but it is all totally worth it. And your mentor is another person volunteering and committing their free time to you because they want to see you go far. It's one big support system that is looking out for you which is great. I was under the impression that I could do it all on my own and looking back at it, I needed all the people that helped out in whatever way they could.

What suggestions do you have for students about to start the college application process?

Write your essay as soon as you can. It takes a long time to edit and the sooner you can have it done, the easier your application process will be. Secondly, pick schools that you really want to go to and if you know your #1 choice that's good. But you don't always get to go to your top choice so when it comes time to making a decision it's okay not to have a definite answer. I didn't send in my deposit until April 28th and even after that I was second guessing myself.

Please feel free to add any additional thoughts.

To the mentees- Please reach out to your mentors! I can't stress that enough. I was terrible at talking to my mentor at the beginning and it didn't help me at all. They're there to help you anyway that's possible so use them if you need it!

Congratulations Class of 2015

For the second year in a row, every T² graduate was accepted into at least one 2 or 4 year college. We celebrated their successes at our Closing Ceremony on June 2, 2015. Mr. Labeledz provided tips for a successful entry into college and spoke about his own experience as a first generation student. Mentors were thanked for their dedication to their mentees for the past year and a half. A fantastic night for all!



Mentee

Mathena Abramson
 Artem Aleksanyan
 Ezekia Allen
 Zuisho Asuka
 Jessica Atocha
 Curtis Beatrice
 Andrea Catalan
 Jossy Catalan
 Tianzhen “Hart” Chen
 Julie Duong
 Reggie Edge
 Laughter Emmanuel
 Sadiq Ervin
 Sadiya Ervin
 Vanessa Ferre
 Chyene Hall
 Sofia Iodice
 Cheyanne Jackson
 Tanaja Jordan
 Naz Knight
 Michael Landsburg
 McCala McDonald
 Chiril Prisacari
 Ethan Sanchez
 Sebastian Montes Soza
 Nancy Tejada
 Saria White
 Qiu Yang Wong
 Talisha Yunen

Mentor

Bonnie Bermas
 Arne Buck
 Sara deSimone Scott
 Dianne Phillips
 Barbara Jellinek
 Bruce Miller
 Marian Prokop
 Marian Prokop
 Jan Spiro
 Lee Paul
 David Svensen
 Ellen Sheehy
 Claire Wadlington
 Claire Wadlington
 Margaret Doris-Pierce
 Jennifer Huntington
 Terry Bromfield
 Linda Shapiro
 Jan Mazzone
 Laya Steinberg
 Mary Troxell
 Michelle Ciurea
 Annie Weiss
 Elie Bosco
 Audrey Lampert
 Sue Shephard
 Sharon Sisskind
 Michelle Ciurea
 Deb Nemetz

Attending College

SMITH COLLEGE
 UMASS AMHERST
 ITHACA COLLEGE
 NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
 MASS. BAY COMM. COLLEGE
 UMASS AMHERST
 MASS. BAY COMM. COLLEGE
 MASS. BAY COMM. COLLEGE
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY
 BOSTON UNIVERSITY
 BRIDGEWATER ST. UNIVERSITY
 SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY
 BOSTON COLLEGE
 UMASS BOSTON
 BOSTON UNIVERSITY
 MASS. BAY COMM. COLLEGE
 WESTFIELD STATE UNIVERSITY
 MASS. COLLEGE OF LIB. ARTS
 FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERSITY
 FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERSITY
 NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE
 PINE MANOR COLLEGE
 FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERSITY
 UMASS BOSTON
 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER
 WENTWORTH INSTITUTE OF TECH.
 MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
 MCPHS
 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Class of 2016 T² Mentees Participate as Mayor's Summer Interns



This summer several students from Transitioning Together participated in the Mayor's Summer Youth Internship Program. The goal of the Mayor's Summer Youth Internship Program is to serve as a stepping stone and learning experience for young adults in the community. Internships provide on the job experience and exposure to the world of work, as well as skill-building workshops and presentations. Teens are placed in internships with local businesses throughout the city for six weeks during the summer. Lal Senyurt, Wendy Zhang and several other T² mentees participated in this summer's Mayor's Internship Program. Below is a short summary of the students' experiences.

From T²'s Lal Senyurt and Wendy Zhang about their internship experience at Green Newton

For The Mayor's Internship program, we interned at Green Newton. Green Newton is a nonprofit organization that helps find sustainable solutions to the environmental problems in our community. We met three times a week, twice in the library and once a week at the Newton Farmer's Market. At the library, we researched and wrote an article on gas leaks, which appeared in Green Newton's newsletter. We also interviewed Nathan Phillips, a Boston University professor, and included his interview in our gas leaks article. At the farmer's market, we helped set up Green Newton's table and we talked to everyone that stopped by about the kinds of work the organization does. Also once a week, we attended a workshop at City Hall where we learned about money management and professionalism. We did the internship for six weeks. We had lots of fun and we learned a lot, especially how there are so many environmental problems that the city faces and what we can do to help out. We would recommend every teenager in Newton to apply!

Call for Class of 2017

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. Just go to www.nnhst2.org and click on "APPLY NOW" to access the Class of 2017 Application You can also fill out a paper application in the College and Career Center. We will contact you shortly after we receive your application.

Important dates for the incoming Class of 2017:

- 1) **Monday, November 16** : X Block Ice Cream Social
Opportunity for Class of 2017 to talk to Class of 2016 T² participants and ask questions about the program
- 2) **Friday, November 20**: T² Application deadline
- 3) **January 21**: First T² Meeting and Junior Family Night
- 4) **February 23**: Class of 2017 Retreat at Mount Ida College



Transitioning Together
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