

# Transitioning Together

*A mentor program for first generation students applying to college*

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## Fall Focus

We were so excited to kick off the year with our first meeting with the T<sup>2</sup> seniors on Monday, September 17th. The class of 2019 caught up with their mentors over pizza and had some great conversations as they started to really think about the year ahead.



*T<sup>2</sup> mentees and mentors at UMASS Boston with Tamika Vernet, Dori Chancy & Darla Vernet, all T<sup>2</sup> '18, UMASS Boston '22.*



## T<sup>2</sup> Team Members

Aaron Sanders, *T<sup>2</sup> Counselor*

Melissa Hanenberger  
*Director & Mentor Coordinator*

Jen Geraghty  
*Mentee Coordinator*

Jillian Hall  
*Programming Director*

Brendan Amedio  
*Alumni Coordinator*

Shana Mihovics  
*Counseling Intern*

Ms. Hall opened the meeting by re-introducing the T<sup>2</sup> staff, including the newest staff addition, Mr. Aaron Sanders. Mr. Sanders, Dean of the Barry House at NNHS, will serve as a T<sup>2</sup> Counselor and his role will involve working very closely with students. We are thrilled to have him as part of the team and know that the students will enjoy working with him. Ms. Hall then went on to explain all of the upcoming events for T<sup>2</sup>, including: 2 field trips (UMass-Boston and Framingham State), College Nights, Financial Aid Night, and 3 T<sup>2</sup> evening meetings. While it certainly sounds like a lot, all of these things are amazing opportunities for the students to get tons of information about specific colleges as well as the college application process.

One important handout that the students received was a list of schools offering Diversity Fly-In programs. These programs, offered by specific colleges, give students with low-income, first generation and/or minority backgrounds the opportunity to visit campus with all of their expenses paid. Students apply to a specific Fly-In program at an individual college. It is a great opportunity for students to visit a school that they otherwise may not have been able to. The fact that these types of programs exist proves to our students what we tell them all the time: colleges want them! First generation students bring a lot of great things to a campus!

Ms. Hall then introduced the speaker for the evening, Ms. Franci DaLuz, Assistant Director of Admissions from UMass-Boston. Franci was born in Brazil and came to the United States with her mom so she could have the opportunity to go to college. Franci told her story of being a first

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See the T<sup>2</sup> website:  
[www.nnhst2.org](http://www.nnhst2.org)  
for our complete calendar of events, important updates, resources and forms.

**Check it out!**

**T<sup>2</sup> Student Spotlight:**

Luther Evans, T<sup>2</sup> Class of 2017  
Framingham State University, Class of 2021

**TRANSITIONING TOGETHER's Alumni Coordinator, Brendan Amedio, asks Luther some questions about his experience:**

**Tell us a little about your college experience thus far.**

*As of writing this, I'm a sophomore studying computer science in college. Reflecting on my freshman year, the most important life value I strived to implement is to live with a definite purpose one day at a time. It's very common to over analyze how things will be in the future. Do make long-term goals, but also focus on the baby steps. Wake up every day with small goals that are important to you. "When you spend your days doing what fulfills you, you are attractive." — Thomas Leonard*

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

*Newton North and the T<sup>2</sup> program helped me tremendously with preparing for college. Always asking questions is better than not asking enough. There's no reason to make hesitant decisions when you have resources that will establish decisiveness. Life already has its challenges, so don't add more difficulty that's not conducive to your success.*

**Was there a piece of advice (or specific experience) you remember from either your mentor or T<sup>2</sup> experience that has had a big impact on your transition to college?**

*I remember all the wonderful retreats the T<sup>2</sup> faculty took my T<sup>2</sup> cohort on and the college tours I went on with my great mentor, Betsy. Their insight really helped me make great decisions.*

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

*The T<sup>2</sup> program will set you up for success and the faculty is committed to you helping achieve your goals. If you're a first-generation student there are plenty of resources out there to help you navigate this the college process and this program will be very helpful in meeting your needs.*

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

*Enjoy the processes! You will hear this a million times but it's true: high school goes by really fast so make the most of every moment!*

**Fall Focus continued.....**

generation college student and the challenges she faced with having a mother who didn't speak English, being low-income, and attending a very large high school with little support. She told the group about the importance of asking questions ("When you're first gen, you don't know what you don't know!"), the value of having mentors and people you can trust, and having the mentality that you shouldn't be afraid to accept help when it is offered to you. Franci's story is inspiring and so relatable for so many T<sup>2</sup> students.

After Franci's presentation, the group headed down to the Auditorium for Senior Parent Night where they were able to hear from the Counseling Department and their own school counselor about what to expect during the year and throughout the college application process. We are so excited to work with the T<sup>2</sup> Class of 2019 and know that this year is going to be memorable and exciting for them!



**Congratulations Class of 2018**



For the fifth year in a row, every T<sup>2</sup> senior was accepted into at least one 2 or 4 year college. We celebrated their successes at our Closing Ceremony on May 30, 2018. Former T<sup>2</sup> mentees served on a panel to provide advice for our graduates. Dr. Turner thanked our mentors for their dedication to their mentees, and T<sup>2</sup> Alumni Coordinator Brendan Amedio provided tips for a successful entry into college. A fantastic night for all!

<u>STUDENT</u>	<u>MENTOR</u>	<u>COLLEGE</u>
Naimid Abelenda	Nancy Holczer	UMASS AMHERST
Tameek Bray	Melissa Hanenberger	NORTHEASTERN PPE Program
Rodney Chan	Gail Stein	WENTWORTH INST OF TECH
Dori Chancy	Jennifer Huntington	UMASS BOSTON
Simi Dalyop	Pam Wright	WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
Jayden Destin	Jennifer McGarry	SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY
Qingchuan Ding	Julia Greenstein	UMASS AMHERST
Long Do	Ellen Forman	BROWN UNIVERSITY
Luis Godoy	Sally Anderson	WENTWORTH INST OF TECH
Hyatt Hao	Christine Vulopas	PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Kayla Huynh	Shirley Taylor	REGIS COLLEGE
Rafid Islam	Beverly Craig	UMASS AMHERST
Patricia Kizito	Sara Einis	MASS BAY CC
Lidia Kontchaeva	Margaret Braccio	CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
Chen Bing Lu	Michael Jablon	WENTWORTH INST OF TECH
Bryan Nsadhu	Sameira Prieto	WENTWORTH INST OF TECH
Sofi Perez	Marla Libraty	NEWBURY COLLEGE
Ernesto Perez	Vicky Stein	ST. BONAVENTURE UNIV.
Niko Severino	Claire Sokoloff	CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
Alexandros Skretas	Tom & Lucy Stair	FRAMINGHAM STATE
Ryan Song	Gray Held	WENTWORTH INST OF TECH
Louis Tsui	Kathy Farrell	MCPHS
Darla Vernet	Stacey Ellender	UMASS BOSTON
Tamika Vernet	Carole Slipowitz	UMASS BOSTON
Roman Volostnykh	Fred Dalzell	UMASS BOSTON
Jia Zhun Wu	Darlene Sheehan	WENTWORTH INST OF TECH
Sharon Yang	Leslie Bernstein	UMASS AMHERST
Jiamin You	Mary Gibbs	BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
Flynn Zhi	Eileen Morrison	CASE WESTERN UNIVERSITY



## Class of 2019 T<sup>2</sup> Mentees Participate as Mayor's Summer Interns



### Transitioning Together Interns and their Internship Site:

**Tammy Yang**, *Newton-Wellesley Hospital*

**Joyce Li**, *Newton-Wellesley Hospital*

**Jasmine Lin**, *Good Shepherd Community Care*

**Chen Wen Ye**, *The Channing Laboratory*

**Stacey Caira**, *YMCA Center for Creative Arts*

**Robert Doherty**, *Newton Planning Department (not pictured)*

**Angela Lin**, *Meet Caregivers (not pictured)*

T<sup>2</sup> mentees participated in the community this summer through the City of Newton Mayor's Summer Intern Program, which strives to "serve as a hands-on learning experience for young adults in the Newton community." Participants dedicate 10-15 hours per week for six weeks of their summer to an internship placement in local businesses, non-profit organizations, and city departments. Quinn Etchie, Director of Youth Services, describes the Mayor's Summer High School Internship Program as "a great opportunity for high school students to learn applicable skills that will serve them greatly in the future." Students, in addition to their time spent at internship placements, also attend a weekly workshop with Ms. Etchie to build skills such as interviewing, financial literacy, and team building. Ms. Etchie speaks highly of the many T<sup>2</sup> students who participated, stating "they were rockstars in the program."

## T<sup>2</sup> Partnership with Summit Education

Once again this year, T<sup>2</sup> has partnered with Summit Educational Group in Newton to offer Class of 2019 mentees free ACT test prep. Twenty T<sup>2</sup> mentees received 25 hours of tutoring, including three diagnostic tests, to prepare for the July 2018 ACT test. We are grateful for our continued partnership as our mentees became more familiar with the ACT format and learned vital test-taking strategies.



## Call for T<sup>2</sup> Class of 2020

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? T<sup>2</sup> is here for you. Please visit [www.nnhst2.org](http://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 T<sup>2</sup> acceptance status by **Friday, December 21, 2018**.

### Important dates for the incoming Class of 2020:

- 1) **Monday, November 19** : X Block Ice Cream Social - An Opportunity for Class of 2020 to talk to Class of 2019 Transitioning Together participants and ask questions about the program
- 2) **Wednesday, November 21**: T<sup>2</sup> Application Deadline
- 3) **Tuesday, January 22**: First T<sup>2</sup> Meeting and Junior Family Night
- 4) **Friday, February 8**: Class of 2020 Retreat at Newbury College



**Transitioning Together**

[www.nnhst2.org](http://www.nnhst2.org)

Newton North High School

457 Walnut Street

Newtonville, MA 02460

617-559-6347