

Transitioning Together

Class of 2016 Retreat to Mount Ida College

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T² Class of 2016 Visit to Northeastern University on March 12, 2015



Superintendent Fleishman's keynote speech

On February 24, 2015 the Transitioning Together Class of 2016 mentees and mentors descended upon the beautiful Mount Ida College campus to participate in an impressive college workshop that focused on creating a sense of community in the cohort while also developing a clear understanding of the stages that lay ahead in the college admissions process. To begin the morning, students were greeted by some of Newton's most prominent leaders including Principal of NNHS, Dr. Jennifer Price, Superintendent of Newton Public Schools, Dr. David Fleishman, Mayor of Newton, Setti Warren, Barry Brown, President of Mount Ida College and Laura DeVeau, Vice-President of Student Affairs at Mount Ida College.

Mayor Warren highlighted his praise for the joint efforts between NNHS and Mount Ida by stating that "this is what Newton is all about," with Superintendent

The trip to Mount Ida really helped me because it was not just a guide to their own college, it was a guide to the start of the entire college process. Fiona Y., T² Class of 2016 Mentee

Fleishman further remarked that he believed that Transitioning Together's joint effort with Mount Ida marked "a national model of community partnerships."

After opening remarks, students and mentors delved deep into data around their own personal strengths through an engaging presentation about the Gallup StrengthsExplorer. The presentation was complemented with an interactive team building activity requiring high levels of communication between mentees and mentors. This marble activity rounded out a morning dedicated towards celebrating not only the partnership between mentors and mentees, but also our students' assets as individuals and team members.

The day culminated with a wonderful guided tour of the Mount Ida campus featuring their students as well as essential presentations on both the college application process and financial aid literacy. Lastly we enjoyed a special lunch featuring school faculty members and a first generation student panel.

The visit emboldened our students to believe in themselves and kicked off what we believe will be a well-connected T² cohort. The T² mentees and mentors left the event feeling optimistic and energized about the road ahead!



Mentees work together in team building activity



T²'s website:

www.nnhst2.org

Includes information for each cohort as well as important updates, resources and forms.

Check it out!

Transitioning Together Class of 2015



Colleges & Universities where T² Class of 2015 mentees have been accepted:

Arizona State University	Pine Manor College
Bay State College	Quinnipiac College
Boston College	Regis College
Boston University (3)	Rhode Island College (2)
Brandeis University	Rochester Institute of Technology (2)
Bridgewater State University (3)	Roger Williams College
Bucknell College	Simmons College (2)
Bunker Hill Community College	Smith College
Castleton College	Southern CT State University (3)
Champlain College	Southern New Hampshire University
Clark University	Spelman College
Curry College (2)	St. John's University
DePaul University	Suffolk University (3)
Drexel University	Syracuse University (2)
Eastern Connecticut State University	Texas Southern University
Emmanuel College (3)	UMASS Amherst (2)
Evergreen State College	UMASS Boston (2)
Fitchburg State University	UMASS Dartmouth (3)
Framingham State University (3)	UMASS Lowell
George Mason University	University of Colorado, Boulder
Gordon College	University of Connecticut (2)
Howard University	University of Maine
Ithaca College	University of Memphis
Lasell College (2)	University of New Hampshire (2)
Long Island University - Brooklyn (2)	University of Pittsburgh
Massachusetts Bay Community College (3)	University of Rhode Island (5)
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	University of Vermont (3)
Massachusetts College of Pharm & Health Sc.	University of Washington
Merrimack College	Wentworth University (4)
Morehouse University	Wheaton College
New England College (2)	Wheelock College
New York University	Xavier University
Pace University	
Pennsylvania State University (2)	

of Class of 2015 Mentees = 29

Accepted to 4 year College = 24

Accepted to 2 year College = 2

% to Post-Secondary Ed. = 90%

Awarded Merit Aid = 19

Total Merit Aid = \$711,077

Average Merit Aid = \$37,425

of Applications Submitted = 201

Average # of Applications = 7

of Colleges Accepted into = 105

Average # of Acceptances = 4

The above figures are as of April 15, 2015.

Additional Achievements of the T² Class of 2015:

3 Posse Finalists

Class of 2015 T² Mentees on Harvard University Graduate School of Education First Generation Panel



Ms. Hoffman with Mathena, Sadiq, Sadiya and Tasha with the Harvard Graduate School of Education CAPI First Generation Panel

Harvard University recently started a program that supports undergraduate and graduate first generation students while at Harvard and beyond. Tasha de Sherbinin, Ed.M. candidate at HGSE (mentored by T² staff member Sarah Hoffman) invited Newton North's T² students to join them on a panel for the HGSE community. Sadiq and Sadiya Ervin and Mathena Abramson did an amazing job of representing our program. They were engaged, articulate, insightful, and found participating in the presentation to be beneficial for all. This first-time program was extremely successful as the HGSE students expressed enthusiasm for helping to mentor our students going forward.

"The College Access and Persistence Initiative (CAPI) at Harvard Graduate School of Education recently hosted a First Generation Student Panel to discuss the challenges that first generation students face at the high school and college level. We were thrilled to have three students from Newton North's Transitioning Together Program on the panel. The audience was excited to hear from current high school seniors and was very impressed with their stories and observations. We look forward to working with Transitioning Together again in the future!"

Tasha de Sherbinin, HGSE Ed.M. 2015 Candidate

"I felt the panel was a complete success. Alongside two other NNHS seniors, I was able to compare and contrast my own experiences as a first generation student, and to a broader extent, a student of color, with Harvard undergraduate and graduate students. Meeting the Harvard students had a strong impact on me, as I understood they were once in my shoes. Being the first to go to college in their families, and succeeding at one of the world's most accredited universities proved inspiring and empowering to me. It showed me how their different backgrounds as first generation students prepared them for the rigorous Ivy-league life. It really made applying to Ivy league schools less daunting."

Sadiq Ervin, T² Class of 2015 Mentee

Transitioning Together Class of 2014



Sherry L. & Patricia M. with members of the Class of 2015

T² Alumni Breakfast – December 23, 2014

The Class of 2014 kicked off the first annual Transitioning Together Alumni Breakfast last December. The breakfast included an opportunity for Class of 2015 members to ask alumni questions about their college experiences thus far. A common theme in their message to the current T² class was to take advantage of the resources available to them from their mentors and the T² program.

We look forward to seeing the Class of 2015 at our next annual December Alumni Breakfast. Stay tuned in the fall for the date!

Melissa Hanenberger, T² Director, interviews with Elena Schwartz, Co-Editor of Newton North's student newspaper, *The Newtonite*

In your own words, what is Transitioning Together? How long has the program been in place?

Transitioning Together, or T² as we like to call it, is Newton North's mentor program for first generation students. We match students, who are the first in their family to attend college in the United States, with a mentor from the Newton community who has gone through the college application process with their own children or who works in higher education. Mentors work with their mentees for 18 months. Together they attend our large group meetings and workshops, visit colleges, and meet individually to provide step-by-step support throughout the entire college application process. This year we extended support with an Alumni Coordinator who is helping our graduates while in college. Our goal is to make sure they graduate from college. We started in the spring of 2013 with 13 students from the Class of 2014. All 13 students were accepted into a 2 or 4-year college.

Roughly how many students are in the cohorts each year?

Our program is definitely expanding as more and more families are hearing about the program and want to join. The Class of 2014 started with 13 students and the Class of 2015 currently has 29 students. This January we expanded to the Class of 2016 to 38 students. Luckily, members of the community have stepped forward and volunteered to become mentors so we can meet the higher student demand in this next cohort. Over half the Class of 2014 mentors are serving again as mentors for this new class.

How does the program attempt to combat the achievement gap at this school?

What is the end goal of the program?

T² is all about access. First generation students and their families who do not have access to resources, nor much knowledge of the college application process, are now equipped with skills, tools and relationships with each other and their mentors. From the winter of junior year through the spring of senior year, our mentors walk mentees and their families through this daunting process and provide them with hope, assistance and support. Going to college is no longer just a dream for students who would be the first in their family to go to college; with T², it becomes a reality. To our knowledge, for the first time in Newton North's history, the percent of all students going on to post-secondary education after graduation is above 90% with 92.3% of our graduates going last year.

Do you think the program has been effective thus far? What could be improved, and what could be done to reach more students and further bridge the gap?

Absolutely, as I mentioned, all 13 students from our first cohort were accepted into a two or four-year college. 38% of our current Class of 2015 has applied Early Action and/or Early Decision and all are on track to apply and gain admission to college in the next couple of months. We currently have six part-time Newton North staff members on our T² team – Sarah Hoffman is our Program Coordinator for our large group meetings, Radka Grein is our Mentee Coordinator for the Class of 2015, Rich Labeledz is our Alumni Mentee Coordinator, Nani Bauza is our Mentee Coordinator for the Class of 2016 and Shiroy Aspandiar is our Logistics Coordinator. We are all part-time and do our T² work in addition to our regular jobs at North. Additional staffing and funding will definitely be required in order to expand this program to meet the needs of Newton North's first generation student population (approximately 10% of our student body). This would provide the level of service our students deserve.

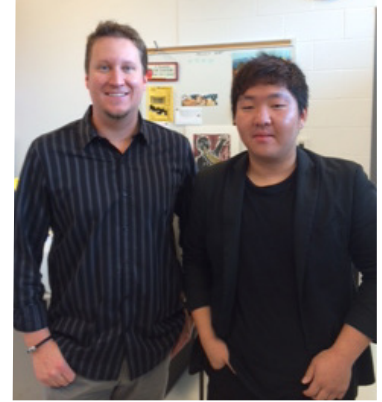
T² Student Spotlight:

Eunsuk Kim

T² Class of 2014

University of Edinburgh

Class of 2018



Rich Labeledz, T² Alumni Coordinator
with Eunsuk

What would you tell students thinking about being in T² about the program?

It gave me not only hope when I faced a hard time in my life, it also gave me faith and courage when I needed it the most. When I had a meeting with my mentor I talked to her and I told her that it seems like it's hard for me to apply to schools far away from Boston. Therefore she helped me apply to schools near my home. However, before I submitted my applications, my mentor told me to dream big and thinking about the future, there's nothing to lose.

For entire interview, please visit
<http://www.nnhst2.org/alumni-spot-light.html>



Transitioning Together

www.nnhst2.org

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