

Transitioning Together

A Mentor Program for First Generation Students Applying to College

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Class of 2020 Retreat at Brandeis University



T² Team Members

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Every year the T² team looks forward to the annual February retreat - this is the first formal opportunity for mentors and mentees to spend the entire day together and really start to get to know each other. For many of the students this is the first time that they will have been on a college campus. We were excited to hold the retreat at Brandeis University for the first time this year.

Instead of attending classes at North, T² mentees hopped on a bus to meet up with their mentors at the Admissions Welcome Center on the Brandeis campus. We were greeted by Marina Offner, Associate Director of Admissions, and the admissions team. Mentors and mentees found each other and enjoyed coffee and donuts before the official program started. After filing into the presentation room, Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, Superintendent David Fleischman, and Principal Henry Turner each spoke to welcome the group. Their speeches were inspiring and made the day start on a really positive note.

Taylor Barnes, Assistant Director of Admissions, then kicked off the program by doing a stand-up/sit-down icebreaker with the group. Everyone was asked to stand if they agreed with the statement that was projected on a screen. A variety of topics were covered- ranging from if they liked Beyoncé music, to if they knew what a liberal arts college was, to what morals and values were important to them in their lives. Mentors and mentees then discussed each topic for one minute. It was a great way to get conversation going and a nice way for the pairs to start to get to know each other.

The day continued with mentees and mentors hearing from many different members of the Brandeis staff about different parts of the college application process and what being a first generation college student is actually like. Sessions included a presentation on the difference between liberal arts colleges/community college/research universities; an introduction to the financial aid process; and a student panel of first generation college students. The group also had the opportunity to take a campus tour (even though it was raining, we popped on Brandeis ponchos and made the most of it) and ate a delicious all-you-can-eat lunch in the dining hall.

It was a packed day, both students and mentors left feeling impressed by Brandeis University, and more importantly, much more connected to each other. The bus ride home had a tangible energy from the students- they are excited and ready to start their process of becoming the first in their family to go to college!



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

Alumni Breakfast

Every winter, the Transitioning Together team invites T² graduates back to North for our annual alumni breakfast! Students from the Classes of 2014-2018 came back to share their stories and new experiences with the current T² class, as well as their former school counselors, deans and peers.

This year's gathering included Patricia Muumba '14 (Cornell University B.S.'18, M.S. '19), Daniel Babitsky '17 (UMass Boston), Roberto Felipe '18 (UMass Boston), Niko Severino '18 (Connecticut College), Bryan Nsadhu '18 (Wentworth Institute of Technology), Lidia Kontchaeva '18 (Gap Year), Jiamin You '18 (Brandeis University) and Kayla Huynh '18 (Regis College). Each shared some of their unique opportunities: Patricia shared about her experiences at Cornell within the school of architecture, Daniel with his participation in student government and our 2018 alumni on how different and similar college is to high school.

Please be on the lookout for a formal invitation in November for next year's breakfast, tentatively planned for January, 2020! For any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Alumni Coordinator, Brendan Amedio: brendan_amedio@newton.k12.ma.us



Welcome Transitioning Together Class of 2020!

On January 22nd, we welcomed the Transitioning Together Class of 2020. Thirty-six mentees and their families met with their new mentors who will be working with them for the next 18 months. The T² Team spoke about the history of the program, the timeline, and expectations for this fantastic opportunity these students have before them. Below are the demographics for our newest class:

100% (36 mentees) First Generation in their family to attend a traditional 4 year college in the United States

31% (11 mentees) English Language Learners (ELL) or former ELL (FLEP)

64% (23 mentees) receive Free or Reduced Lunch

36% (13 mentees) live with a single parent or guardian

3% (1 mentee) lives with someone other than either of their biological parents

17% (6 mentees) in METCO

17% (6 mentees) in NNHS Dover Legacy Scholars (DLS)

T² Class of 2020 Goes to Northeastern University

On March 26th, the T² Class of 2020 and their mentors visited Northeastern University for a campus tour, information session, and student panel presentation. The tour through campus gave students a genuine feel for what the Northeastern community is like. During the tour, students visited several places including an Engineering building, the Business Administration building, the Fine and Performing Arts Center, the Student Center and a lecture hall.

Our student tour guide, Carolina, was from Brazil and provided great information and insight about the campus and university. She enthusiastically shared

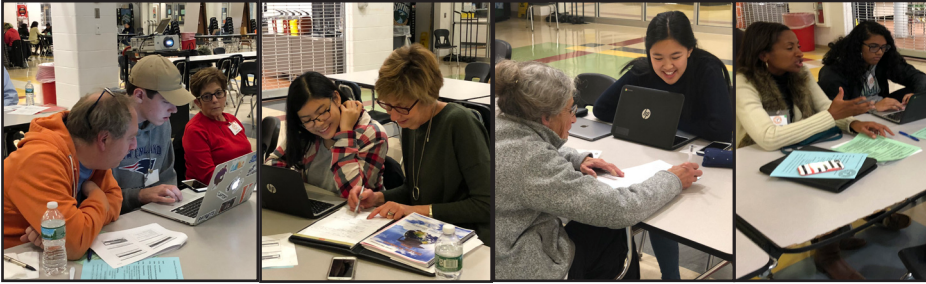
her personal experiences as a first generation student at Northeastern. Our students were excited to hear about Northeastern's Co-op Program, which provides students with work experience in a specific field during their time in college. Students are able to build their skills and resume with real work experience while in college.

After the tour and information session with Carolina, our group met with Eric Nguyen, Senior Assistant Director of Northeastern's Opportunity and Scholarships Program and three current Northeastern students: Jonathan, Jess and Damian. All three students were fortunate to have received scholarships through the Torch Program. Torch Scholarships are awarded to first generation students who have "overcome exceptional odds." The T² students were excited to hear that Northeastern and other colleges offer scholarships for first generation students! Jonathan and Jess shared their co-op experiences and highlighted all of the exceptional ways to get involved and learn.

Damian and Jess shared their transition to Boston and student life at Northeastern. Damian a freshman, shared his personal history and journey from South Carolina to Boston. Jess, who has aspirations of attending medical school, shared her experiences as a student and her move from California to Boston. Our students were engaged and asked thoughtful questions about the panelists' college experiences as well as their application process. A huge thank you to Northeastern University for an incredible afternoon on campus. Our students had a fantastic time!



Transitioning Together Class of 2019



Colleges where the T² Class of 2019 students have been accepted:

- Adelphi University
- Alfred University
- American University
- Amherst College
- Arizona State University
- Assumption College
- Becker College
- Beloit College
- Bentley University
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Bridgewater State University
- Bryant University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Coastal Carolina University
- Curry College
- Dean College
- Emmanuel College
- Endicott College
- Fairfield College
- Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising
- Florida Atlantic University
- Framingham State University
- Franklin Pierce University
- George Washington University
- Iowa State University
- Jacksonville University
- Lasell College
- Louisiana State University
- MCPHS
- McGill University
- Merrimack College
- Miami University, Oxford
- Michigan State University
- Missouri Tech
- Nichols College
- Norwich University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Providence College
- Quinnipiac University
- Regis College
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Roger Williams University
- Rutgers University
- Salem State University
- Salve Regina University
- Seton Hall University
- Simmons College
- SUNY Stony Brook
- Suffolk University
- Temple University
- University of Alabama
- University of Arizona
- University Bocconi - Italy
- University of California - Irvine
- University of California - Santa Barbara
- University of Central Florida
- University of Hartford
- University of Maine - Orono
- UMASS Amherst
- UMASS Boston
- UMASS Dartmouth
- UMASS Lowell
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- University of New Hampshire
- University of St. Andrew's
- University of Southern Maine
- University of Tampa
- University of Vermont
- Wellesley College
- Western New England University
- West Virginia University
- Wheaton College
- Worcester State University

By The Numbers

of Mentees = 35

% Applied to College = 100%

Accepted to 4 year College = 33

Accepted to 2 year College = 3

Awarded Merit Aid = 14

Total Merit Aid Awarded to T²

Mentees = \$720,305.00

Average Merit Aid = \$51,450.00

Total # of Applications = 363

Average # of Applications = 10

of College Acceptances = 168

Average # of Acceptances = 4.8

Average Acceptance Rate = 46%

The above figures are as of May 1, 2019.

"Without T², I would have been totally lost during the college application process. My dad literally googled 'how do you get your daughter into college.' My mentor guided us through the entire process, and we are so grateful for her help."

- Class of 2019 T² mentee

Transitioning Together

www.nnhst2.org

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