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## SAT Prep: Growth & Improvement by Kenisha King

SAT prep class had a tremendous effect on my current SAT scores. When I first entered the class, I was a little wary on what would be presented. However, immediately as I stepped foot in the class, I felt welcomed and more at ease. I had taken the class once before and I felt that it helped me to achieve the grade I did. However, I was not satisfied with the score I got so I decided to give it another go.

At the beginning of the first session, we were told that “your scores will increase if you attend all of the classes”. Imagine my surprise when I surpassed 150 points. If it wasn't for the teachers I probably would have not done so well on my own. And for that I would like to thank them.



## Winter 2017 Calendar

### SAT Prep Session #1

February 8 - March 9, Tuesdays-Thursdays

4PM—6PM; February 21st & 22nd (11AM—1PM)

Expand your understanding of the new SAT. Learn test-taking strategies and improve your knowledge of reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Deadline to Register: January 31st

### SUNY Downstate Black History Celebration

Thursday, February 9, 1PM-2PM

Celebrate their 39th Annual Black History Month Program, with Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Gardere. Sign up with your Pre-College Counselor.

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## Looking Forward: College Essay by Cybil Quarco

It was the spring of 2015, and I was performing my annual task: Spring cleaning. I was cleaning out my closet and following the usual “keep/throw away” procedure, until I came across a gem. A gem that held all the nostalgic memories from my golden ages. It was... a shoe box. This wasn't just any old shoe box, it contained all my fifth grade treasures: photographs, keychains, and even my cap and gown. But the most memorable item I found was my autograph book which has signatures of all my fifth grade peers and teachers. As I sat down to read through the notes that they wrote to me, I came across a special note: “Dark skin is always beautiful. Always be proud of who you are! If you don't feel beautiful, remember me, I'm just like you. Love you always, Ms. Davis.”

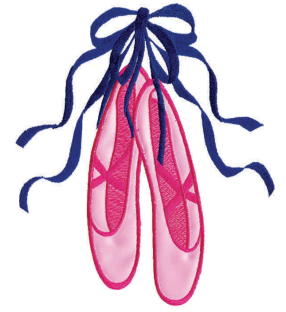
During fifth grade, I was a victim of bullying. Although I went to a predominantly African-American elementary school, I was bullied for my dark complexion. During that time we grew up in a society where people with light skin were considered more beautiful than people with dark skin. This “dark skin” vs “light skin” clashing made it hard for me to have the confidence to go to school every day and feel proud and beautiful in my own skin. But every time I felt belittled or discouraged, I always had my fifth grade teacher Ms. Davis to turn to. Ms. Davis had the same dark complexion as me and she understood the lack of confidence I had. She would always tell me that I was indeed beautiful, and that I should appreciate the skin that I was in. Ms. Davis's kind words always boosted my confidence, and allowed me to feel comfortable with who I was. I saw her as more than just my fifth grade teacher. She was really like a second mother to me because she was the only teacher who had ever gone out of her way to make me feel special. She sparked confidence within me that I was lacking and ever since then, I've learned to appreciate and love my dark complexion. Ms. Davis was really a person that I could look up to because of the way she embraced her beauty.



By the end of 5th grade, I grew into a young black woman who was not ashamed of her appearance instead, I embraced my beauty. But after fifth grade, I attended a predominately white middle school and I gradually started to feel out of place again. At first, it was hard for me to feel comfortable about expressing myself to my peers because I stood out with my natural hair and brown eyes in comparison to my blonde and blue-eyed peers. But soon enough, I slowly began to express myself through dance. Although I'd been dancing since the age of five, middle

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school was where I began to take it more seriously, after my dance teacher told me about Misty Copeland. Misty Copeland became a very inspirational person to me once she became the first African American female principal dancer in the American Ballet Theatre. Before Misty Copeland, African American women had never been given such a prestigious title in the dance community. Her achievement gave me another boost of confidence that allowed me to be even more comfortable about my skin complexion. I was able to dance more freely and openly, knowing that there were women of my skin tone doing the same.



I've taken Misty Copeland's example and Ms. Davis' uplifting words and held onto them through both middle school and high school. In high school, I've been involved in afterschool programs that involved empowering the African- American youth. Programs such as Black Heritage Alliance has helped me realize that I want to be in life: and that is becoming a businesswoman. In this day and age, there are more and more black-owned businesses across America. I want to be able to work in the business field , and contribute to the growing numbers of black-owned businesses. Becoming a businesswoman would not only make me a leader, but also allows me to encourage young African-American girls who think they cannot achieve great heights because of their skin color. I want to become a Misty Copeland, or a Ms. Davis to every young black female who lacks the confidence to achieve their goals in life.

## The High School Experience by Jesus Rodriguez

You enter elementary school as a kid and you leave as a kid. You enter middle school as a kid and you leave as a kid. But while you may enter high school as a kid, you leave as an adult. It is within these four years that we experience our most formidable change during our adolescent years. While adulthood always seems like a far-off prospect, the full weight of becoming an adult sets in once you're in High school; it is here which marks the beginning of that transition. I know that is the reality for me, as well as the millions of other kids who I share this experience with. Because it is during this time in which we experience the many firsts of what adulthood will begin to bring. High school may be a time of stress, of studies, of heartbreaks, of adventures, but most importantly it's a time of growth.

The person we were when we walked in seems like a complete stranger to the person we've grown to be, even if the differences are subtle. If you were to describe yourself from four years ago to a person who didn't know you then, they'd think you'd be talking about someone else. When I first entered high school I was lazy, sarcastic, and immature. Now four years later I'm lazy, immature...and sarcastic. Wait what was my point

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## Intern's Corner by Tuba Malik

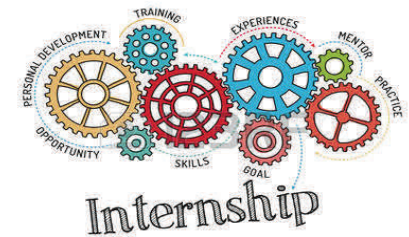
My name is Tuba Malik and I'm currently attending Professional Pathways High School. In this school, I was offered various opportunities. One of them is being able to intern for the Brooklyn College Educational Talent Search office as an office assistant. I was very excited to hear about this position because it's similar to what I want to major in college which is, Human Resources Administration.

To pursue this dream, one of the colleges that I would like to go to is Brooklyn College. According to my research, Brooklyn College has a really good program for becoming a Human Resources Administrator. In order to pursue this career, I'll have to take classes such as: Business Economics, Management and Marketing. In order to go into this field, you'll need to have certain qualifications and prerequisites such as a Master's degree in the field.

A Human Resources Administrator manages an organization or an industry's employees by handling recruiting, orientation, facilitating training, and administering payroll and benefits. The starting salary for this job is \$52,040-\$103,725. When you have been working in this field for more than 3 years your salary can go up to \$183,590.

In this field, the salary you earn is all based upon which company you work for. Every company has a Human Resources Administrator. The salary for this position fluctuates from company to company. Some of the companies that I would love to work for are Deloitte, PwC, Ernst & Young and KPMG. These companies are known as "The Big Four". The Big Four are the four largest professional services networks in the world.

By working as an intern at Brooklyn College and working on my communication skills for the future, I'm preparing for my future as a Human Resources Administrator. Success is hard work but it's necessary if you really want to live the good life.



## The High School Experience (cont'd)

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again? Well at least my hair changed. Anyhow, the change is still apparent in many of us, even me (just very, very, very subtly), and it is up to us to decide to embrace this change and continue to grow into a person our freshmen selves would be proud of. As we embark onto this next road, I shall leave you with a quote from one of literature's most respected writers of this generation and any for that matter, Dr. Seuss. "You have brains in your head. Feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose."



## Reflections: Talent Search Staff

Brooklyn College TRIO Educational Talent Search Program is a long title. But every word in that title is important. We are a program dedicated to serving students working towards college admission. We are located on the Brooklyn College campus, we are funded by TRIO and we search for students who work to display their talents inside and outside of the classroom. As an educator and as an administrator, I have seen the productivity, ingenuity and opportunities of this program grow by leaps and bounds. BCETSP students now have more resources than ever before waiting for them at BCETSP. What have I learned during my time here? I have learned that communication is a necessary and valuable asset among students and professionals alike.

I have learned that vision combined with planning can equal a fully functional academic curriculum, even if it is an original idea; especially if it is an original idea. Most importantly, I have learned that students will either rise or fall to the standards educators place before them. Resiliency cannot be taught, it is easy to quit. Brooklyn College Educational Talent Search students are resilient and we look forward to their accomplishments every single semester. Happy New Year; to success!

- A. Valiant (Assistant Director/Academic Coordinator)

## Reflections (cont'd)

An important lesson that I have learned this Winter is the necessity for Patience. Witnessing youth from my community struggle academically, at times, taxes my mind and spirit. The need for solutions to our various educational struggles is imperative, yet many solutions remain elusive as valuable lessons are needed to be understood before healing can be administered. It's very easy to give up on our youth, but I often keep in mind the portrait of Brother Malcolm in our Brooklyn College office: PEOPLE CHANGE. Truly, I believe in this; thus, I seek that sweet patience that will offer healing to the youth in my community as they traverse through the traps of education. Peace!

- M. Kaba (Pre-College Counselor)

I didn't hear about the Educational Talent Search Program until I joined two years ago. Honestly, I am glad that I did. In our society, we often hear about people being "self-made"; that they were able to be successful without anybody's help. However, if you look at yourself, your family and your peers, you will notice that somebody else's action, no matter how big, made an impact on how far they have gotten. Thanks to social media, we tend to focus on our highlights, or the events that make us look good. We ignore the difficult times because they are not appealing. However, we should acknowledge both the good and bad, because they make us who we are.

The Educational Talent Search Program helps our students through their highlights and their challenges. Besides providing students with academic and financial support, we also offer them emotional support through counseling, which is an essential part of their wellbeing. Being a part of the Talent Search staff has helped me realize that there truly is strength in numbers; people that you come across in your life plays some role in helping you become the person you are today. I believe that programs like ours help students become better versions of themselves today, than they were yesterday.

- M. Gordon (Office Assistant)

## **NYU Visit**

Friday, February 17, 10:30AM

Talent Search students will participate in a campus tour and information session at New York University, a private 4-year institution. Ask your Pre-College Counselor for more information & sign up.

## **TRIO Empowerment Group**

Thursday, February 23rd

This is an opportunity to grow with peers as you review healthy living habits and practices as well as develop civic projects to empower your school community. Group meetings will follow a Friday schedule during afterschool hours.

Contact us to be part of the experience.

## **Tutorials**

March 3—May 19 (Fridays only); 4PM—6PM

Take advantage of free tutoring services. Subjects will include Algebra I Common Core, Living Environment, English, and Social Studies.

## **SAT Prep Session #2**

April 3rd - May 4th

Tuesdays - Thursdays, 4PM-6PM

Deadline to Register: March 27th

The events listed are exclusive to enrolled Talent Search members. You can sign up in one of the following ways:

- Send us an email. Include your name, school name, grade, and the name of the event(s).
- Speak to your pre-college counselor.
- If a registration form is required, complete and return it via e-mail or fax, or by giving it to your pre-college counselor.