

Educational Talent Search Student Newsletter



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Fall/Winter 2007

RANDOM ACTS...

There is one thing that you can control in this world, and that is your attitude. If every one of us would do one kind thing for another person each day, it would have a tremendous impact on the course of events. It would have a snowball effect. Each person that you did something nice for would be compelled to do something nice for someone else. So let's do the math. There are 900 participants in Talent Search, plus the six of us that work for ETS, making 906. Nine-hundred-six plus 906 (the people we were kind to) equals 1812 plus the 906 that those people were kind to equals 2718, and so on.

Take that on a daily basis for even a month and just think what might happen. These random acts aren't big things, but they may have a big impact. Hold the door for someone; help someone with their groceries; pay an expired parking meter; talk to someone who seems lonely; let someone in front of you in line at the store. These are the little things that just may make someone's day - an encouragement to them to keep on keepin' on.

Here are a few websites with samples that support the idea:

<http://www.actsofkindness.org/>
<http://www.noogenesis.com/malama/kindness/index.html>
<http://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>
<http://www.angelscamp.com/rak.htm>
http://www.pjstar.com/lifestyles/random_acts/
http://everything2.com/index.pl?node_id=552743

So, here's the challenge: at least one act of kindness a day. Share your stories with us, and we'll publish some in the next edition!

- Kelly

WEB 2.0

Last spring I spent some time trying to determine what Web 2.0 was and might mean to me. Was it just something else to learn? The result - I'm hooked. Although many of you may already use these sites, and some of you should be writing this column, I want to tell you about my favorites and hope that you'll share yours with me at rmcmillen@clarion.edu.

DEL.ICIO.US

Tag - you're it. Ok, that's probably old by now, but I love this site. Finally, there's a way to organize all those scraps of paper and stickie notes of website addresses. No longer am I going through favorites on different computers and skimming back through lists of nonsense looking for a website. It's now all in one place, wherever I go. Check this one out!

GOOGLE DOCS

This site takes a close second to my favorite. Google Docs makes the sharing of documents easy. This is especially true if you are not able to talk face-to-face with the person, due to time or location. Google accounts are free and this is just one of the new options they have for you. One other bonus - you can save as a pdf!

BLOGGER

Ah ha - an opportunity to shamelessly plug the ETS blog. Our blog contains information applicable to each of you for school, careers, and financial aid. When I have a request for information from a parent or student, I often post answers here. Then the information can be shared, tagged, and retrieved. So visit <http://clarionu-etsub.blogspot.com/> to see what's up this week. And if you are really on top of things - add us to your Blogline account!

- Rhonda

WORKING THE AS OFF!!!

Getting organized starts with deciding what needs done - creating "to do" lists. The most important thing about creating these "to do" lists is keeping lists with us, so that we are aware of what we need to accomplish.

It's easy to create your own "to do" list using the ABCs. First, you need index cards. Index cards work well, because you can keep them in your backpack or notebook, and they don't get ruined easily. Jot down all the things that you want to accomplish for the day (or week), or create a list every night for the following day. Then, go through the entire list and mark each item with the following:

A - The most important items on your list. These are the things you need to get done now! Examples include: getting your math homework done for today, washing your basketball uniform, or registering for the SATs so you get the test site that you prefer.

B - Important, but are not urgent. (These items may become As.) Bs can be postponed if necessary. Examples include studying for an upcoming test or grocery shopping.

C - Items that you would like to get done. These are less important than the As and Bs on your list. Examples of "C" items are shopping for new jeans or thinking of an idea for your term paper that is due at the end of the year.

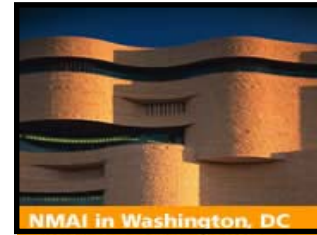
Every time you complete a task, cross it off. This gives you a sense of accomplishment and motivates you to continue. Just remember that if you get off course, re-route yourself toward working the As off.

- Connie



Washington, DC Incentive Trip - Funded by Youth Philanthropy Board, Venango Community Foundation

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN



On August 10, Talent Search traveled to Washington, DC. One of the museums visited was the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). Time in the museum was limited to an hour and a half (not nearly enough time to appreciate all that NMAI has to offer). The students were only able to see one or two exhibits, but one of the most important features of the museum is the building itself and the landscape around it.

The building, pictured above, was designed by Douglas Cardinal (Blackfoot) along with a team of Native architects and consultants - including Johnpaul Jones (Cherokee/Choctaw) and artist/designer Ramona Sakiestewa (Hopi). The exterior walls are draped in *Kasota stone* which unites nature's rough beauty and the architecture's creative elegance in harmony. The building is aligned to the *cardinal directions* and to the center point of the Capitol dome. It is filled with symbols that reflect the Native universe, including representations of nature, astronomy, and objects from the collection of George Gustav Heye.

The landscape design was guided by the expertise of *ethnobotanist* Donna House (Navajo/Oneida). It was the design team's vision to honor the local Native people by featuring four environments *indigenous* to the Chesapeake Bay region, including hardwood forest, wetlands, cropland, and meadow areas. There are *Cardinal Direction Marker stones* from Maryland, Canada, Hawaii and Chile which share the landscape with more than 40 *Grandfather Rocks* and are reminders of the longevity of the Native Americans' relationship to the natural world.

This is one of my favorite museums in DC. I would encourage anyone visiting our nation's capital to stop by and check it out. One cool thing is...IT'S FREE!

(It is a Smithsonian Museum, and *all* Smithsonian museums are free! Words in italics are excellent terms to look up. You know, for further research.)

- Kelly

TOP JOBS FOR THE YOUNG



Ever wonder, "What is the best career for me?" People value jobs for monetary compensation, excitement, challenge, and job availability in a specific field. *CNN Money* recently published a list of the *Top 20 Jobs for the Young and Restless* including information on compensation, job growth, and the fulfillment or challenge that a job presents. Below are some of our favorites. (Complete list is available at: http://money.cnn.com/galleries/2007/moneymag/0703/gallery.bestjobs_young.moneymag/index.html)

1. **Product/Brand Manager** - controls developing, marketing and managing an assigned product line. Creativity is a must.
 - a. Median Pay - \$90,100
 - b. Job Growth - ★★★★★
 - c. Education - Bachelor's degree and experience
2. **Staff Nurse (RN)** - specializes in different areas of health care. You can work in a hospital, doctor's office or in a personal care facility.
 - a. Median Pay - \$59,800
 - b. Job Growth - ★★★★★★
 - c. Education - Associate's degree and certification
4. **Public Accountant** - audits financial statements, advises companies on tax strategies and business costs.
 - a. Median Pay - \$50,100
 - b. Job Growth - ★★★★★
 - c. Education - Bachelor's degree and experience
5. **Information Technology Generalist** - provides routine maintenance and trouble shooting technology. These jobs often lead to more advanced IT jobs. Strong communication skills are a plus.
 - a. Median Pay - \$47,800
 - b. Job Growth - ★★★★★★
 - c. Education - Bachelor's degree and minimal experience
6. **Engineer** - responsible for design, development, implementation and analysis of technical products and systems.
 - a. Median Pay - \$53,600
 - b. Job Growth - ★★★★★
 - c. Education - Bachelor's degree and minimal experience
7. **Engineer - Environmental Health/Safety** - implements local, state, and federal environmental policies and health and safety regulations.
 - a. Median Pay - \$52,400
 - b. Job Growth - ★★★★★
 - c. Education - Bachelor's degree, minimal experience and licenses
8. **Meeting/Event Planner** - responsible for planning meetings or special events for an organization.
 - a. Median Pay - \$52,600
 - b. Job Growth - ★★★★★
 - c. Education - Bachelor's degree and experience
9. **Financial Advisor** - advises individual customers on activities regarding financial plans.
 - a. Median Pay - \$66,800
 - b. Job Growth - ★★
 - c. Education - Bachelor's degree and experience
12. **Massage Therapist** - performs massage therapy techniques to control pain, reduce stress and promote relaxation in a healthcare facility.
 - a. Median Pay - \$44,300
 - b. Job Growth - ★★★★★
 - c. Education - High school diploma and massage therapist certification
15. **Personal Trainer/Fitness Instructor** - coordinates fitness programs for a facility or individuals.
 - a. Median Pay - \$49,400
 - b. Job Growth - ★★★★★
 - c. Education - May require a bachelor's degree and certification
16. **Pharmaceutical Sales Representative** - develops new prospects and interacts with existing customers to increase sales of an organization's products and/or other services.
 - a. Median Pay - \$93,700
 - b. Job Growth - ★★★★★
 - c. Education - Associate's degree and minimal experience

Merrit, J., Bigda, C., and Rosato, D. (2007) *Young and Restless Top 20 Jobs*, CNN Money Magazine. Retrieved on Tuesday, October 16, 2007 from http://money.cnn.com/galleries/2007/moneymag/0703/gallery.bestjobs_young.moneymag/index.html

The road to success
is dotted with many
tempting parking places.

-Unknown

THE JUGGLING ACT: FINDING THAT DELICATE BALANCE

How busy are you? Did you ever sit back and analyze what you are doing outside the normal school day? Are you involved in every extracurricular activity and find a way to be at every social event? Or do you go home after school and stay there?

There is a theory regarding college age students' involvement. The involvement theory suggests that student involvement has a positive impact on development and learning. It also claims that the more a student is involved, the greater amount of learning and personal growth occurs.

Can we apply this same theory to high school students? I think we can. Extracurricular activities are beneficial, as long as they don't interfere with study time. Activities help you develop organizational and leadership skills that provide benefits during and after your high school years. If your comfort zone is typically to be uninvolved, you should try to enrich your life by joining or participating. I remember one of my former teachers saying to "not let your education stand in the way of your education." He meant that we need to get away from books, visit museums, and attend cultural and sporting events.

The involvement theory does not suggest that students should be involved in every activity presented to them. Many ETS students attend schools that are relatively small which require the same students to be in choir, band, yearbook... AND participate in different sports teams throughout the school year, not to mention many students are working evenings and weekends. **WHEW!** Talk about exhausting! Although there are numerous students that are doing this and keeping up their grades; this juggling act can take a toll.

The bottom line? *Get* involved, but be aware of your limitations. Analyze how much is too much. Are activities affecting your school work? Are they affecting your behavior toward others? If the answer is yes to these questions, find a way to create peace and harmony and cut back some.

There's no doubt that these are difficult decisions to make. Finding time for homework, plus time to rest and relax is important. With less on your plate, you deal better with everyday stressors and succeed in the areas most important to you.

- Jodi

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



This summer I had one of the most amazing experiences of my life as a participant in the People to People Student Ambassador British Isles Tour. I toured England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland in twenty days with 38 students and three other leaders. We saw historical and political sites, met new people, tasted traditional cuisine, and challenged ourselves with some exciting activities. If you are one who dreams of traveling to foreign countries, seeing new things, and making new friends, then the People to People Student Ambassador Program may be for you.

President Eisenhower founded People to People in 1956 in an effort to bring citizens of the world together and work toward world peace. Since 1963, Student Ambassador Programs have taken thousands of young Americans across international borders. Student delegations of 40 fifth and sixth grade, middle school, or high school students have journeyed to 34 countries on all seven continents. Some of the locations are the British Isles, Australia and New Zealand, Mediterranean, Europe, and South America.

Once a year, People to People invites students to participate. Students are recommended by teachers, administrators, and Student Ambassador Alumni. National academic listings that top colleges and universities use to find their applicants are also checked. To participate, students must attend an informational meeting in their area, have two recommendations from teachers and one from an adult who knows them well, and participate in a twenty minute interview. The program is not free, but scholarships are available for financial need. Fundraising ideas are also available.

By participating, you can gain added confidence and self-esteem, lasting friendships with students from local delegations and around the world, a broader understanding of the world, an appreciation of the privilege of living in the United States, and an advantage for college admission. The insights and perspectives that you gain are a perfect foundation for college interviews and essays. This unique activity helps set you apart, just like the extracurricular activities of student council, newspaper, or the yearbook. There is also the possibility to earn academic credit and advanced placement college credit.

If you're interested in becoming a Student Ambassador, attend a meeting in your area. For more information: phone 800-669-7882 or visit www.studentambassadors.org.

- Tami

SELECTING A COLLEGE

CORNELL
UNIVERSITY

The thought of choosing the right college can be overwhelming. The entire process begins with you. Take time to examine the things that are important to you in order to find a school that meets your needs. Before you start your search, take time to ask yourself some serious questions:

MASSACHUSETTS
INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

- Why do I want to go to college?
- Do I have an ultimate goal?
- What do I want to study (what major am I considering)?
- What are my interests, attitudes and abilities?
- What possible jobs or careers interest me?
- What salary would I be able to live with?

After you have spent time analyzing, it should be easier to create a short list of schools. There are small community and technical colleges, private colleges and large universities. Each type of school has its own advantages. In order to select or eliminate schools, create a comparison chart using the following headings:

Majors/Areas of Study

- Does this school offer the courses/major that I am interested in?
- Will the program of study help me achieve my personal goals?

WHEATON
COLLEGE

Type of School

- University/College/Community College/Technical
- Public or Private Schools

Size of School

Smaller schools typically offer smaller class sizes which allow more one-on-one attention. Larger schools often have a greater range and variety of courses offered with more facilities and resources.

Location

- Is distance from home important?
- Do I want to get home frequently or is this an opportunity to see another part of the country?

NORTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY

Campus Setting - Urban, Suburban or Rural -

Urban and suburban environments offer easy access to cultural and major sporting events. Rural environments offer access to skiing, hiking, and camping.

Cost

- Does this school offer a good education at a reasonable price?
- How much is the total cost - tuition plus living expenses?

GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY

- Can my family help pay for college? How much?
- Will I qualify for grants, scholarships, work-study, low-interest loans?
- Can I really afford this school or is there a more reasonable choice?

SYRACUSE
UNIVERSITY

Academic Atmosphere

- What is the average class size?
- What is the student faculty ratio?
- How valuable is a degree obtained from this school?

Social Atmosphere

- Where would I be comfortable, safe, and productive?
- What are the residence halls like?
- Does the school offer activities on weekends?

EDINBORO
UNIVERSITY

Facilities

- Does the school have an adequate library, classrooms, laboratories, gym, exercise equipment and dining facility?

Athletics and Activities

- Do I want to play sports or intramurals in college?
- What extracurricular activities are offered that would interest me, such as dance, theatre, band, broadcasting and community service opportunities?

Services and Security

- Are there adequate health and counseling services?
- Does the school offer quality academic advising?
- Are there safety and security measures in place?

Job Placement/Graduate Study

- What is the job placement rate for graduates?
- What percentage of students go on to graduate school?

So many questions and so much to think about, yet only YOU can determine which college is the best fit.

Still struggling with selecting the right college? Don't hesitate to give your ETS counselor a call or e-mail to schedule a personal appointment.

Here are a few websites for follow-up:

WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

Best Colleges - www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/cohome.htm

Rankings - www.usnews.com/sections/rankings

Education - www.usnews.com/sections/education

NCAA information - www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/

Employment - www.bls.gov/emp/home.htm

Scholarship sites - www.fastweb.com,

www.collegedata.com, and www.educationplanner.org

PSU

CUP

BC3



FAFSA COMPLETION DAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2008

10AM-1PM
 FREE!

ETS IN COOPERATION WITH PHEAA -
 BRING YOUR INFORMATION AND
 LEAVE READY TO FILE YOUR FORM

CLARION FREE LIBRARY AND
 BROTHER BEAN COFFEE SHOP - CRANBERRY

WATCH FOR UPCOMING INFORMATION!

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Visit www.clarion.edu/ets for upcoming programs.

As soon as events are posted,
 students or parents may register.

Check out our blog @ clarionu-etsub.blogspot.com

Permit

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