

**Saniya (Sonny) Nov**

TRIO Talent Search

My home life lacked stability and definitely lacked a consistent adult presence. If my life were a tower, I'd be very careful of how much the foundation could support—wasn't much. Adding college to the mix would result in a potential collapse. My faith played and continues to play a huge part in my daily life both in and out of school. However, there was also TRIO Talent Search that served as the foundation that supported my college needs. My family endured the Ruling of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. They killed anyone who was educated or rich—including my grandpa and more than 40 relatives. My grandpa's dying words before execution were engraved in my family's souls—"Work hard, study hard, and love one another." I saw this in my mom who got her degree while battling cancer, raising a family, and fought until her very last breath trying to continue her dream of becoming a teacher. I was forced to adapt and accept a new lifestyle--independence. Since the death of my mom, my dad remarried and relocated to Texas. I lived with my older sister and brother. There is a lot that I have on my plate in my efforts towards becoming a teacher. My personal history has inspired me towards the path of teaching and I know that I have the resources to make it happen. I take advantage of the opportunities that TRIO offers like their SAT prep classes, semester workshops, and college field trips. I am also glad they offered tutoring and were willing to help me with essays. This has all helped me gain confidence in moving on to that next flight of stairs of the tower that is my life.



Talent Search

The Talent Search program identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete their postsecondary education. The program publicizes the availability of financial aid and assist participant with the postsecondary application process. Talent Search also encourages persons who have not completed education programs at the secondary or postsecondary level to enter or reenter and complete postsecondary education. The goal of Talent Search is to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in and complete their postsecondary education.

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