



CTSO State Champion Recognition-FWPS School Board

Career and Technical State Winners above received the following recognition:

TJ students, Kayl Coulston, Lionel Estrada, and Michael Jovanovich, State Champs in Crime Scene Investigation, advised by Tommy Decker, Skills USA TJ student, Tiffany Luu, 1st Place in Computer Applications, Advised by Bruce Case, FBLA TJ student, Khrystyna Plaksyva, CPR/First Aid State Champion, Advised by Monica Watchie, Skills USA Decatur student, Matt Suelzle, Automotive Service State Champion, Advised by Luke Thompson, Skills USA Decatur student, Jordan Crahan, Business Law State Champion, Advised by Leslie Nolasco,



Jon Gibson (above with Fonda Mongrain) says he was someone who didn't like coming to school. In fact he was on track not to graduate. He was a sophomore at the time he met Fonda Mongrain, CCS at Todd Beamer. Fonda encouraged Jon to seek credit retrieval by attending Puget Sound Skills Center in the VITAL program. All along the process Fonda stayed connected with Jon and his progress. Jon was asked what she did for him that kept him in school and motivated. "Ms. Mongrain knew I could do it, she saw potential in me that no one else seemed to recognize." He also said "she didn't give up on me even when I gave up on myself." "Ms. Mongrain is one of the first people that really believed in me. Recently, Jon graduated from Puget Sound High School. He plans to work awhile and then enroll in community college.

TJ's Career Specialist Encourages CTSO State Champs to Head to Nationals

Earlier this spring Eileen Restrepo congratulated the state champs in Crime Scene Investigation only to find out that they didn't think they could fund raise enough to go to nationals. Ms. Restrepo said "It took some convincing to get the boys to believe that it was possible, they weren't just representing Thomas Jefferson, and they were representing Washington State.

Letters were rewritten, collections taken up, odd jobs completed, connections made with newspapers and television stations - all by the boys with some suggestions and some gentle prodding from Ms. Restrepo.

They are going to Kansas City to represent Thomas Jefferson and Washington at Nationals. "Regardless of the outcome at Nationals they know they can do anything they put their minds to. They've already won in my book." Link to the full story below:

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Amateur-crime-scene-sleuths-earn-their-way-to-national-competition-207466831.html>

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

Spotlighting programs in Career and Technical Education

Life after High School Event Coming in October

Parents and students will want to mark their calendars now for the Districts' annual event on October 16th, being held at Todd Beamer this fall. Come and talk to representatives from 60 various institutions including colleges, universities, technical schools, the military, job corps and many more!

Attend seminars and learn about admissions, financial aid, scholarships, ACT vs. SAT, the two-year option, writing personal statements, and get your questions answered.

The event will begin at 6:30 and go until 8:00 pm.

This is the perfect opportunity to find out what you need to know to help launch our students into a successful future.

Make your plan now!



District Career & College Specialists Advocate for Our Students' Success

Did you know that millions of dollars in scholarships are awarded to Federal Way District High School students every year partially due to the work of the Career and College Specialists at each school? These hard-working women above from left to right are: Eileen Restrepo/ Thomas Jefferson, Susanne Font/Decatur, Carla Boone/Federal Way, Debbie Washington/Truman, and Fonda Mongrain/Todd Beamer High. It is not an easy job when there is just one specialist at each school but the work they do is quite amazing.

Their responsibility is to help students to develop their career and college plans. They do this in many ways and offer a variety of resources. Some of these include: coordinating college representative visits-four year, two year, public, private, and technical programs and institutions they desire to attend. They organize field trips to college fairs.

Specialists also work with students that want to know more about serving in the military and assist them to research the different branches.

This Issue

Career & College Specialists advocate for student success

CTSO State Winners are recognized at school board

Paul Kalebu named Gates Millennium Scholar

Additionally, they raise awareness of upcoming SAT/ACT testing dates and register all students that have a desire to test.

They assist students in their college searches and have materials to direct students' application process and share examples of quality college essays.

They have developed a great expertise in helping parents navigate the challenges of financial aid materials which is critical to the students' pursuit of further education. They publish a scholarship guide monthly and make it available online as well.

These are only a few examples of their service to our students. In this issue we will spotlight an upcoming event and some career center success stories.



JAG Offered at the Career Academy

JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) is a class that is unique at Truman High School. Debbie Washington (shown in the center of the photo) assists with JAG and it is a national as well as a state sponsored program. This class focuses on teaching the students employability skills, college readiness, and life skills. The class features many field trips to explore career options and speakers from industry. The members of the class include: Darionte Jones, Gabby Basher, Dayana Gonzalez, Masa Sagio, Nathan Perkins, Jennifer Weir, Jennifer Quintero, Walter Padilla, Brandon Cooper, Brenda Sanchez, Allen Navarro, Lissette Barrados, and Hunter Collins.

Susanne Font, College and Career Specialists at Decatur tells about one of their successes: "Senior Olivia Smith was in my office recently to discuss scholarships and her choice to attend the University of Washington Seattle. She thanked me for telling her about the 'Shades of Purple' Conference she attended her junior year. I remember handing her the application and saying to try it out – even if you don't plan on going to the UW, it is a great way to see what a big campus has to offer and whether it is the right 'fit' for you. "Shades of Purple" was created to encourage underrepresented minority students to pursue higher education and give students the opportunity to experience the UW. Olivia said she wasn't planning to apply to the UW and never really saw herself going there. Her decision to attend the UW as a freshman this coming fall was largely influenced by her time spent on campus during the Shades of Purple conference last summer. Her three day stay at the UW gave her the confidence, knowledge, and experience she needed to navigate the college admission process and be accepted to her first choice school.

Olivia said the Career Center has been helpful to her for scholarships, college admissions, college essay tips, senior to-do lists, 13-year plan/Senior Portfolio guidance, and much more. She said she was thankful that we are here. I believe our mission is to connect all our students to the abundant resources available to them so that they can make decisions that will best match their educational and career goals for the future."

Decatur Career Center Opens the Door for a Bright Future



Ms. Font with Olivia Smith

College and Career Specialist Partners With AVID Program at Federal Way High

Carla Boone has strategically partnered with the AVID program to provide invaluable support to our college-bound students. At each grade level, AVID utilizes Carla's expertise to ensure college preparedness. Starting with 9th graders, Carla partners with AVID teachers to assist students with signing up and taking the PSAT, followed by guiding the students through analysis of their scores and utilizing the results to improve in relevant areas for the SAT. She also assists the students with a college and career survey on-line that helps them to see the connection between their academic performance, college admission and future career choices. During the 10th grade year, Carla conducts a mock application process, including acceptance into "Boone University," while continuing to work with students to use their PSAT results and the College Board website to plan for their future. For 11th graders, Carla guides every AVID student to sign up for the SAT in May and arranges for SAT preparation courses and activities for the students. She conducts a second mock college application process using the rigorous Common Application, which requires a refined personal statement (which the students initially wrote as sophomores).

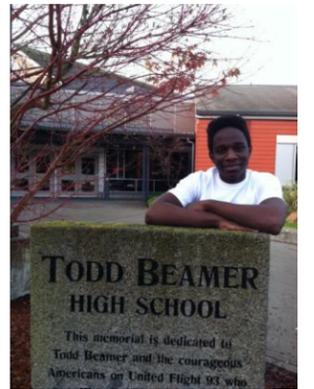
Finally, during the 12th grade year, Carla meets with each AVID class once a week to guide them through the college admissions process, scholarship applications, FAFSA guidance and much more. Additionally, Carla arranges for, facilitates and accompanies all AVID students to multiple college fairs, she brings in representatives from colleges and universities on a weekly basis and she hosts several parent evenings to inform and assist families in filling out the FAFSA and to provide them other college admissions guidance.

Lastly, she monitors and guides the students who qualify for, and are needing to follow through on, the College Bound scholarship offered by Washington State. Carla's support of AVID students is daily and consistent--without her expertise and assistance, as AVID teachers, we would be unable to adequately prepare our students.



Above: Students receive recognition from Ms. Boone!

Paul Kalebu Selected



Gates Millennium Scholar

Fonda Mongrain, College and Career Specialist from Todd Beamer reports that she was honored to help Paul navigate his way through the application to be selected from over 54,000 applicants to be named as one of 1000 Gates Millennium Scholars for the class of 2013 and conferred with the distinct honor that distinguishes him as a "Leader for America's Future"

Paul was a part of the team from Beamer last year that took 1st place in the **Imagine Tomorrow** competition which highlighted their project that focused on nuclear fusion. Paul will study at MIT in the fall.