

PTO General Meeting – November 4, 2013

4:00 pm - Library

1. Suzanne Morris-Sherer – Thomas Jefferson High School Principal

Suzanne was a principal at an Aurora elementary school for 6 years before going to TJ this year. Her plan of action is to hold the students accountable for their actions in high school and show how those actions affect their life. Her long term goals for TJ is to be a Green school by next year and in the next 5 years be a Blue school. She has implemented a no skipping class environment – a student skips class, they get detention. They started the year with 85-88% attendance and are now at 92%. Another way to reach the students is to show them what GPA means and how that along with a certain SAT score will get them into CO colleges. She did this at the beginning of the year and students are responding to this approach – it gives them some direction on what they are working for. Suzanne and her administration staff have taken about 4 students each who are in danger of not graduating and are meeting with them weekly to go over homework, class work, life, etc to get these students to a graduating level by the end of the year. TJ has partnered with Metro south campus and has students attending college level courses and getting college credit for those classes. Students are required to give 10 hours of community service hours. Students have paired up with Samuels, Slavens, Holmes, and Bradley to help the community. For school tours – see attached flyer.

2. Principal Steve Wera Update

- a. Look for Science Fair kick off on Wednesday.
- b. IPAD's are here but have proven to be a huge challenge for Mrs. Distel to sync and upload applications to all IPAD's. We will not be ordering any more school wide IPAD's but will work on laptops instead because of their ease of use. Math is our school wide focus this year. IPAD's will be used to sharpen math skills in students and for the math tutoring classes.

3. Dramatic Learning – Tracy Cress – Classroom Grant Update

November 19th the 5th graders will attend a workshop on circulation which coincides with their current unit. November 22nd the 4th graders will attend a workshop on electricity. December 3rd the Kindergarteners will attend a workshop on investigating senses. In the spring, the 3rd graders will attend a workshop geared towards TCAP tests. 1st and 2nd graders will attend a workshop in the spring also. ECE will get a workshop in the spring that focus on jobs. Tracy does not have a cost on these workshops until the workshops are booked. In October, the PTO approved a classroom grant for \$1,200 for the Dramatic Learning workshops. Tracy said that the company will offer us grants once we have booked the workshops. She will have a total hopefully next meeting. (See minutes from October 7, 2013 with Dramatic Learning insert for more information)

Penny Harvest began November 4 and will run through November 22. Bring in your pennies in the bags provided or labeled for Penny Drive with student name and teacher on bag. There will be classroom incentives to bring in the most pennies. Last year the Penny Harvest raised \$1,000. We hope to do the same this year. Money raised will be donated to an organization that the students decide. In the past, it has gone to animal type organizations. More information will come as monies are raised and organizations are chosen.

4. Wine Tasting/Silent Auction – Dawn Master and Janee Mauney (not present)

Vicki spoke to the details of the auction. Still looking for more ticket sales. Kids will be stickered and flyers will be handed out to Kinder/ECE side this week. Some parents still don't know about the auction so get the word out. So far, we have over \$11,000 in donated items for the auction. This doesn't include all the classroom projects. A list of items will be sent home in Friday folders this or next week to raise interest. Buy your tickets at Bradley PTO website – <http://bradleypto.com/> Tickets are \$25 each before the event. Day of event tickets will be \$35 each – buy them early!

5. Great Outdoors Colorado Grant Application

Need volunteers with grant writing abilities to work with Kendra Black on getting a Great Outdoors Colorado grant for playground equipment. They have \$659,000 to give in grants to DPS schools. Information call (888-557-8511 PIN 4557805) on November 6 at 9am or 1:30pm or November 7 at 9am or 1:30pm. Please RSVP to us so they know you are joining the conversation. Tracy Smith and Sonja McMurray will head up this grant. Please let us know via email if you are interested in helping.

6. Thanksgiving Lunch – November 21

Lunchroom needs 2 volunteers per each volunteer time during the Thanksgiving Lunch event. Volunteers will be at the lunchroom door for an hour checking in adults who have paid for a Thanksgiving Lunch with their student. The time periods needed are: 10:15-11:15 (2 volunteers); 11:15-12:15 (2 volunteers); and 12:15-1:15 (2 volunteers). Let the office or the PTO know if you are available.

7. Committee Reports

- a. **Year Book** – Julie Vollmer & Sonja McMurray – Possible newspaper fundraiser. Sonja will look more into this option for possible spring issue. Yearbook committee is working hard to get the book together and all is going smooth.
- b. **Garden** – Sonja McMurray – Garden is planting winter crops and has a protective cover for plants. Parents and students are working after school and during lunch to plant and maintain garden area. Will get ready for spring planting after winter break. Kids Day of Service was a huge success! Thanks for everyone who came out to help!
- c. **Restaurant Nights** – Judy Hagerty – Garlic Knot November 19; Chick-fil-A December 5 – all day!; Beau Jo's December 18
- d. **Backpack** – Dawna Edwards and Emma Dunrud – Have 24 families enrolled as of today. Should get to 50 by year end. Starting the large Whole Foods pick ups

hopefully in mid November. Go to Whole Foods and don't forget to donate towards the Grab and Give program which funds the backpack program at Bradley, Holmes, and Highline Academy.

- e. **Kings, Safeway & Target** – Allie Christopherson (not present)
- f. **Movie Nights** – Jessica Dungan (not present) – December 20 – 6:00pm – Classic Winter movies – Rudolf, Santa is Coming to Town, Frosty
- g. **DU Night** – Jami Paronto and Brandy Baltier (not present) – setting up a DU night in February – look for more information to come.

8. New Business

Melissa Capozza (IB Coordinator for Bradley) rescheduled IB Night for December 11. This is for current parents to learn more about what an IB school is and how you can support your student using IB principles and verbiage. For prospective families, there will be school tours beginning in December through January 31. We should have a lot of interest in Bradley since Bradley is a Distinguished school.

Next meeting – December 2, 2013 – 4:00pm in the Library

www.BradleyPTO.com



THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Where Tradition and Innovation Unite

Thomas Jefferson (TJ) High School helps students achieve their personal best by setting high expectations for success and creating a supportive environment that welcomes all students and families. Our rigorous academics, real-world skills-development and cutting edge-technology prepare students for college and the careers of the 21st century. As you are considering 9th-grade options for the 2014–15 school year, we hope you will consider joining the Spartan Family!

Learn more at one of our upcoming Open House events!

Thomas Jefferson Open House

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 and Tuesday, December 3, 2013 | 6-8 pm

During the TJ Open House, interested students will have the opportunity to learn more about all TJ academic and extracurricular programs including:

- Advanced Placement & Honors Courses
- Arts program
- Athletics
- AVID
- Center for Communication Technology
- College Courses/Dual Enrollment
- Denver Scholarship Foundation
- Future Center
- More than 50 clubs and activities
- Student Leadership

Families will have the opportunity to meet the principal, tour the school and talk with staff and current students. For more information, please contact Joanne Moreno at (720) 423-7000.

Center for Communication Technology Information Nights

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 and Tuesday, December 3, 2013 | 6–8 pm

During our Open House events, those students specifically interested in TJ's Center for Communication Technology (CCT) magnet will also have an opportunity to learn more about the program's offerings. This unique program offers students the opportunity to explore web design, software engineering, 3D design and animation, radio and television broadcasting, photojournalism, and robotics. Families will have the opportunity to visit classrooms, meet with teachers and students and receive more information on the CCT program and application/interview process and deadlines.

For more information on the CCT Information Nights or the CCT magnet program, please visit tjcomputermagnet.com or contact Matt Spampinato at (720) 423-7013 or Matthew_Spampinato@dpsk12.org.

RSVP for these events at TJcomputermagnet.com/open-house.



TJ Tours

THOMAS JEFFERSON
HIGH SCHOOL
3950 South Holly Street
Denver, Colorado 80237
www.tjjournal.com



Tours of Thomas Jefferson are available on the following dates:

- Tuesday, October 8th
- Tuesday, October 22nd
- Tuesday, November 5th
- Tuesday, November 19th
- Tuesday, December 3rd

Tours are from 8:30 to 11:00am.

Shadowing

Shadowing is only available by appointment. A student can shadow at TJ if they have attended a TJ tour prior to their shadowing date.

Please contact Mrs. Moreno with any questions or requests to shadow at Thomas Jefferson.

- 720-423-7149
- JoAnne_Moreno@dpsk12.org

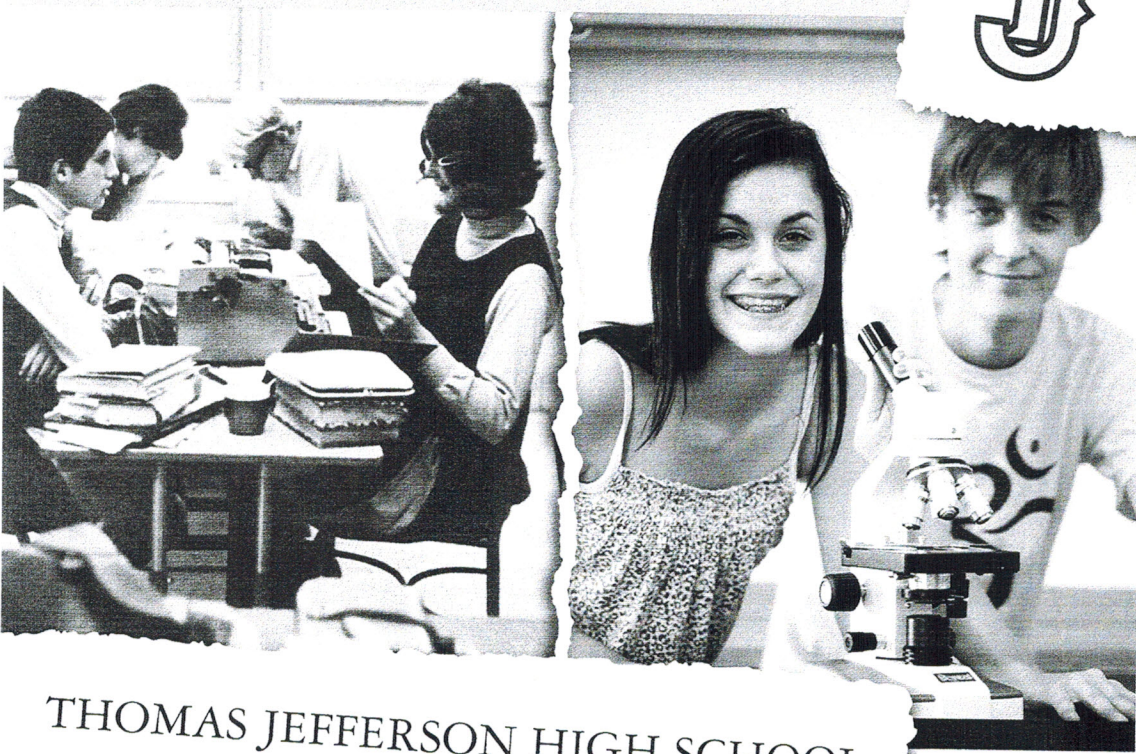
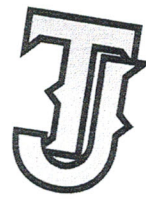
TJ

Open Houses

TJ and the Center for Communication technology are hosting Open House Nights for 8th Graders and parents on:

- Tuesday, October 22nd
- Tuesday, December 3rd

CCT Open houses are excellent opportunities for prospective students to preview the course subjects: Web Design, Communications, 3D Modeling, Software Engineering, and Robotics. They last from 6-8pm.



THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL
Where Tradition and Innovation Unite

Thomas Jefferson High School helps students achieve their personal best by setting high expectations for success and creating a supportive environment that welcomes all students and families.

We are proud of our long history of excellence, with strong support from celebrated alumni. Our rigorous academics, cutting-edge technology and real-world skills-development prepare leaders for the careers of the 21st century.



TJ is proud of our long history of excellence.

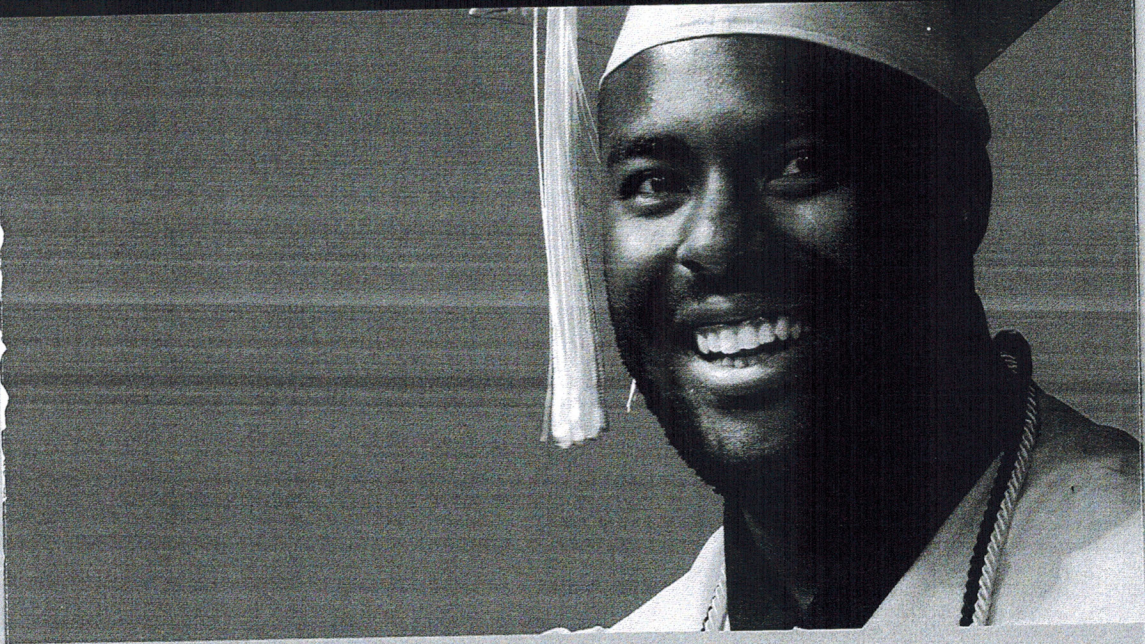
- **Focus on Post-Secondary Readiness** — TJ focuses on preparing all students for success in college and career. In fact, in 2013, 85 percent of our graduating class were accepted to post-secondary programs.
- **Strong Alumni Support** — Many distinguished business leaders, journalists, athletes, and community members have graduated from TJ and show continued support to our students. We have the strongest alumni support among all Denver high schools.
- **Commitment to Our Community** — Our faculty and staff have strong ties to Denver Public Schools and actively contribute to the neighborhood surrounding TJ. We work with parents and other key leaders to connect with the community and ensure all neighborhood students understand what we stand for at TJ. We encourage our students to positively represent TJ in the surrounding area as well. In fact, we require all students to complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service prior to graduating.

CC

"I am the fourth person in my family to attend TJ. 'Brown and Gold' is in my blood. TJ feels like home. It gives me access to great academics and the chance to be involved in multiple activities."

Shelby Anderson , TJ Student

Strong
Leadership



A classic high school experience for the next generation of leaders.

While we are busy preparing our students to compete in the 21st century, we are pleased to offer many of the classic high school experiences that students have come to love over the years. With so many options available, **85 percent of our students participate in one or more extracurricular activities.**

- **Clubs and Activities** — TJ offers more than 50 clubs and activities including annual travel abroad opportunities, Book Club, Business & Marketing Club, Challenge Day, Chess Club, Constitutional Scholars, Debate, FIRST Robotics, Gay/Straight Alliance, Interact Community Service Club, Knitting Club, Mentoring, National Honor Society, Outdoor Club, Photo Club, Shakespeare Festival, SMART Movie Club, Video Club, We the People, and many more!
- **Athletic Program** — All students are encouraged to participate in a wide range of sports that allow students to compete at the freshman, junior varsity and varsity level. Our school has renovated athletic facilities including a double gymnasium, turf field, swimming pool, softball and baseball field, Olympic-style weight room, cardio workout room, dance studio, and wrestling gym.
- **The Arts** — TJ students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of vocal, visual and performing arts opportunities including advanced placement (AP) music theory, band, beginning band, drama, drawing, drum line, female and male vocal groups, graphic art, jazz, Monticello Singers (honors vocal group), orchestra, painting, pottery, and 3D design.
- **Award-winning Publications** — Students can explore the world of journalism and media by contributing to a variety of news publications including: *The Spartan Edition*, a daily news video show; *Thomas Jefferson Journal*, the school newspaper; *The Aristocrat*, the TJ yearbook; and *The Jeffersonian*, the school magazine.
- **Student Leadership** — All students are encouraged to lead clubs, teams or musical groups and to participate in the Senior Leadership Seminar, Student Council or JROTC. Student leadership positions are held by students with a wide variety of interests and backgrounds.

TJ offers a warm and caring environment that welcomes and embraces all students.

- **The TJ Family** — At TJ, our school is friendly and warm, making everyone feel like part of the family. TJ students reject cliques, preferring to work and socialize with a variety of students. Our core values are truly embraced by all Spartans: Respect, Commitment, Honesty, Empowerment, and Understanding.
- **Parent Involvement** — TJ students and staff benefit from outstanding parent involvement from the TJ Partners group, which supports fundraising needs, athletics, academics, and more.
- **Strong Leadership Team** — Our exceptional staff brings deep knowledge and experience, including 65 percent who have earned post-graduate degrees. All staff are committed to forming strong bonds and lasting relationships with students.
- **Arts, Academics, Athletics . . . we have it all!** — From AP courses to no-cut sports teams to the Monticello Singers, TJ has academic and extracurricular opportunities to meet the unique needs of all students.



TJ sets high expectations for success, and supports all students in achieving their personal best.

At TJ, college is an expectation. Eighty-five percent of our students are accepted into college and career-training programs. Graduating seniors from the class of 2013 gained acceptance to colleges and universities including **Baylor, Brandeis, Colorado State University, University of Colorado, University of Kansas, University of Arizona, US Air Force, Navy, Army** and **University of Denver**. In previous years, TJ graduates have also attended nationally-recognized colleges including: **Yale, Cornell, Penn State, Stanford, Syracuse, New York University, North Carolina State, Georgetown,** and **Howard University**.

Our school schedule is designed with flexibility that allows students to customize their learning pathways to support their individual college and career goals. **The 2013 graduating class reported more than \$2 million in scholarships.** Among others, TJ offers the following academic offerings to help prepare our students for college and career:

- Advanced Placement & Honors Courses
- Advanced Via Individual Determination (AVID)
- ACT Test Prep
- Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT)
- College Courses / Dual Enrollment
- DECA
- Denver Scholarship Foundation
- Freshman Academy
- Special Education
- The Future Center
- Tutoring Center

Center for Communication Technology Magnet Program

Where creativity is our focus, technology is our tool and communication is our goal.

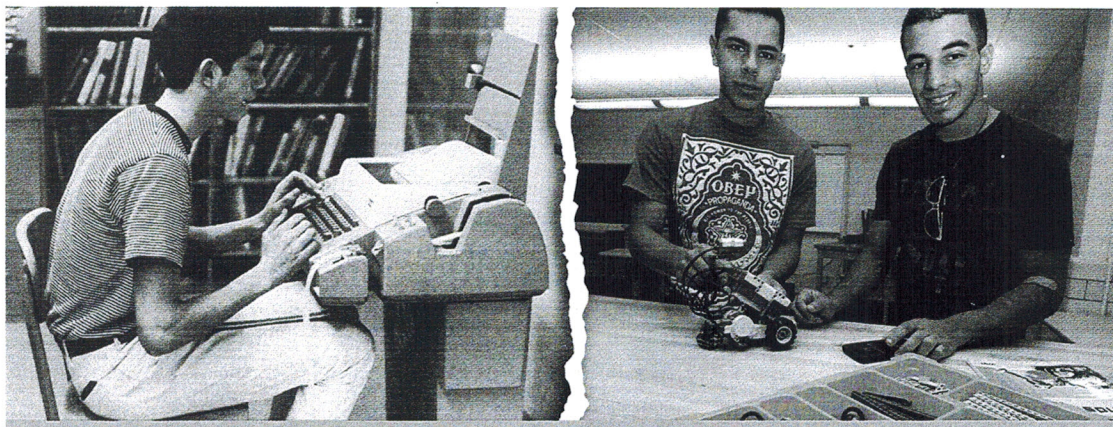
The Center for Communication Technology (CCT) is a four-year, comprehensive magnet program at Thomas Jefferson High School offering industry-standard training in five unique areas:

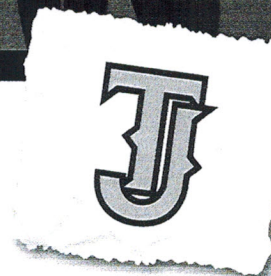
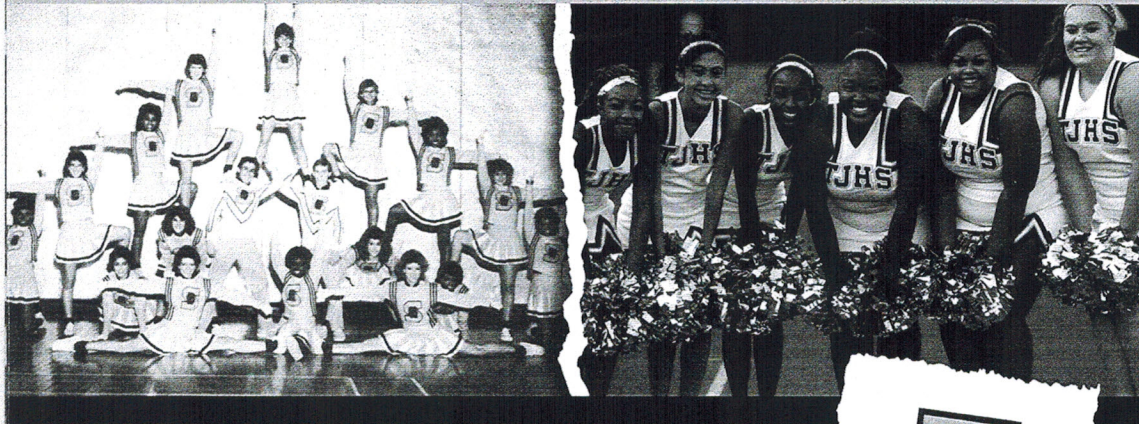
- **Web Design** — Students will take web applications classes where they have the opportunity to create their own websites. Students gain experience with Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Flash, and Fireworks, while also learning how to use web tools that are data-driven and interactive.
- **Software Engineering** — With the software engineering program, students learn how to create interactive programs, games, as well as their own software projects. Students gain experience with Lego Mindstorms, Visual Basic and Flash. Classes for juniors and seniors are modeled after college-level courses and introduce additional software such as Dreamweaver, MySQL and PHP.
- **3D Design** — In the 3D animation courses, students have the opportunity to gain experience with Carrara 3D, 4D Cinema, Poser, Sketchup, and Photoshop. Advanced courses challenge students to go into greater depth, understand the principles of storytelling and create 3D movies and demo reels.
- **Communications Central** — Students in the communications central major will have the opportunity to take radio and television broadcasting classes, photojournalism and can even work on the *Jeffersonian Magazine* and *Jefferson Journal* newspaper.
- **Robotics** — In this new program, students will build Lego Mindstorm NXT and Tetrix robots, design simple and complex motors and robot prototypes, and learn how to program their robots with LabVIEW software. Students also have the opportunity to compete in the international FIRST Tech and Robotics Challenges.

Freshmen will take an introductory course covering all five majors, and seniors will participate in a capstone class where they use their skills to design, create and manage their own entrepreneurial projects. CCT students are fully integrated into the student body at TJ and are able to participate in honors and AP courses, as well as athletics, clubs and other activities.

Students who are interested in CCT must complete an online application in addition to the DPS SchoolChoice enrollment form. Applications are due by January 12, 2014. For more information, please contact:

Matt Spampinato, Director | 720-423-7013
matthew_spampinato@dpsk12.org | tjcomputermagnet.com





Visit Thomas Jefferson High School

For more information or to schedule a visit, contact:

Thomas Jefferson High School
3950 South Holly Street
(720) 423-7000
www.TJJournal.com

“

My son, Dylan Lutz, had the opportunity to attend East, Regis and Thomas Jefferson's Center for Communication Technology Program. We chose Thomas Jefferson because of the quality and enthusiasm of the teaching staff, along with the Honors, Advanced Placement and Robotics courses, and finally the top of the line Center for Communication Technology Magnet Program.”

Karen Lutz, TJ Parent

Eighty-five percent of students from the 2013 graduating class were accepted to post-secondary programs.

experience