

**Profile of the
Educational Talent Search Program
UW-Fox Valley
2009 Regents Academic Staff Excellence Award Recipient**

Department Facts, Activities, and Resources

- The Educational Talent Search (ETS) is a TRIO program that provides a bridge between K-12 school districts and UW Institutions for first-generation and low-income students; it is the only TRIO program that serves students as early as sixth grade.
- The two coordinators work with 620 students each year and log over 5,000 hours of student contact per year.
- ETS coordinators facilitate 35 separate, small group workshops each month—on-site, right in the schools—where students learn alongside their peers about academic, career and financial topics. Students also receive individualized, one-on-one attention and frequent access to ETS resources, since ETS coordinators have offices in each school.
- Although the program provides students with intensive assistance, it is accomplished with an investment of only \$365 per student (or \$1 a day). This compares to other federally funded TRIO programs, such as Upward Bound which spends \$4,400 per student and the Student Support Services program which spends \$1,000 per student.
- The ETS program has been in operation for three years. In the 2007-2008 program year:
 - 100% of the non-senior participants were promoted to the next grade;
 - all 72 participating seniors graduated from high school;
 - 71 out of the 72 seniors applied for financial aid;
 - all 72 seniors applied for college admission; and
 - 60 out of the 72 ETS seniors went on to enroll in college programs.
- ETS is a 100% federally funded program. Excluding the costs of staffing and student activities, the program meets its objectives with an annual operating budget of only \$6,900. The program has seen steady growth in the number of low income, first generation students who participate -- from 552 students in year one to 620 students today.
- The ETS program at UW-Fox Valley exceeds both state and national averages for college enrollments. Nationally, 66.7% of all students who graduate from high school will actually enroll in college. In Wisconsin, 52% of students from low income families enroll in college. By comparison, 83.3% of the seniors who participated in the ETS program last year (60 out of 72) actually went on to start college.

In the words of the program's partners and families

- “The [ETS] coordinators have done an exceptional job of working with teachers, counselors and administration to understand the gap in perception of college accessibility of parents and students and demonstrated that they had the skills and resources to help students realize their post secondary options. The confidence and pride the coordinators have helped instill in the students is inestimable.”

Dr. Debra Hunt, Assistant Superintendent, Kaukauna Area School District