



## **Mentoring Program Fact Sheet**

### **St. Olaf TRiO Educational Talent Search**

Each year since 1993, more than 200 St. Olaf College students have volunteered their time to mentor approximately 400 students in Minneapolis and St. Paul schools. The Mentoring Program is sponsored by St. Olaf TRiO Educational Talent Search (ETS) and is supported by grants from Travelers, General Mills, and Great Lakes Higher Education.

#### **St. Olaf Student Connection:**

- 200 St. Olaf College students sign contracts to volunteer as mentors throughout the year
- St. Olaf students read and provide feedback on writing assignments (including punctuation, grammar, and spelling)
- St. Olaf students provide support and share personal experiences with their mentees
- St. Olaf students participate in three field trips; one field trip to their mentees' school, one to a neutral location such as the Science Museum of Minnesota, and one in the spring when their mentees visit St. Olaf College
- During the school field trip and the visit to St. Olaf, mentors and mentees tour each other's campuses, attend classes together, share lunch, and participate in discussions
- Mentors gain a greater understanding of ethnic, cultural, and social diversity
- Mentors learn about current middle school and high school student issues
- Mentors develop an understanding of the complexity of life for inner-city, low-income youth
- Mentors improve feedback skills and gain grading expertise

#### **St. Olaf Professor and Administration Connection:**

- Professors invite ETS and GEAR UP staff into their classroom to explain the mentoring program and recruit mentors
- Professors use this unique field experience to teach St. Olaf students about multicultural issues and urban schools
- Professors and administrators volunteer to host the mentees when they visit St. Olaf

#### **Middle School and High School Connection:**

- 400 students at Northeast Middle School, St. Paul Humboldt, Minneapolis North High School, and Washburn High School participate in the program and receive mentoring throughout the year
- Teachers collaborate with St. Olaf TRiO ETS Advisors to train mentors at St. Olaf
- Teachers provide credit to mentees who fully participate in the program
- Mentees receive personal support and develop self-confidence
- Mentees gain information about college life and postsecondary opportunities from the St. Olaf College student role model, including college admissions, financial aid, how to select a college, and the value of a college education.
- Mentees develop their writing skills and effective communication skills
- Mentees gain a greater understanding of ethnic, cultural, and social diversity

#### **TRiO Educational Talent Search Connection:**

- ETS staff train mentors about student issues and about how to respond to mentees' writing
- ETS staff coordinate field trips to the middle or high school, a neutral location, and to St. Olaf College
- ETS staff document the frequency and thoroughness of correspondence between mentors and mentees
- ETS staff provide information to mentees about careers, financial aid, college planning, and summer academic enrichment programs
- ETS staff monitor the mentoring programs and are available to mentees, mentors, teachers, and professors to answer questions and provide training, as needed
- ETS staff evaluate the program and complete an annual program evaluation summary

For more information about the St. Olaf Mentoring Program, please contact ETS Director, Katie Olives (507) 786-3780 or Administrative Assistants, Wendy Placko or Denice Stocker (800) 621-7601.