



February 2026 Newsletter

Important Dates

Friday, February 13
**SDP Half Day for
Staff Development**

Monday, February 16
**SDP Closed for
Presidents' Day**

Tuesday, February 17
**SDP Closed for
Lunar New Year**



Greetings, Scholars and Families —

We hope everyone has been staying safe and warm through the recent cold, snowy weather! The second half of the school year has begun, and Talent Search is here to support you as always.

Read on for information on upcoming program activities, Black History Month events in Philadelphia, and opportunities for scholars.

Have questions or need assistance? Email us any time at vpse.talentsearch@upenn.edu.



Penn Talent Search

Fourth Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Exhibition

UNARMED TRUTH & UNCONDITIONAL LOVE: A STUDENT POETRY READING

Friday, February 13

4:30 pm

Irvine Auditorium
3401 Spruce Street



SAT Prep for 10th & 11th grade scholars

Talent Search invites current 10th and 11th grade scholars to attend a FREE **2-session SAT Prep Course**. Priority enrollment will be offered to students who have not attended a previous Talent Search SAT Prep course.

DATES: Monday, February 16 and Tuesday, February 17*

TIME: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

LOCATION: On campus at Penn (exact location to be announced)

Spots are extremely limited! Students must commit to attend **BOTH DAYS** for the full time allotted.

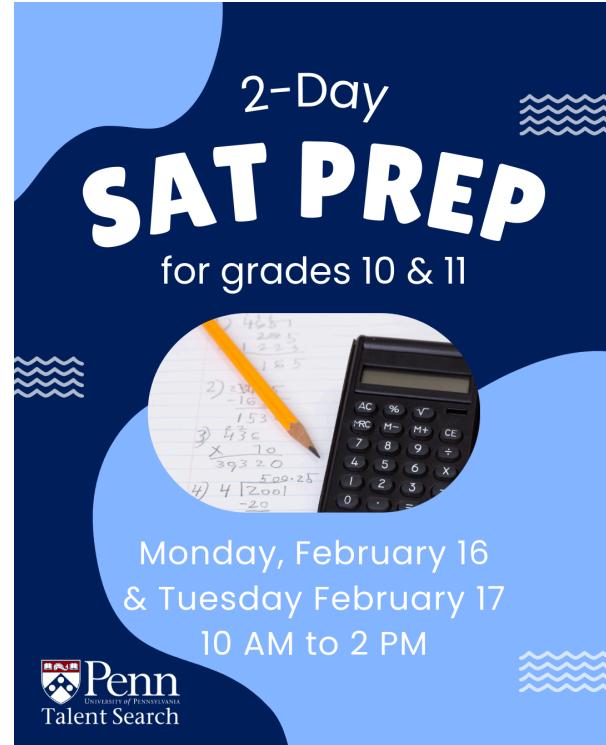
[**Click here to apply no later than Sunday, February 8.**](#)

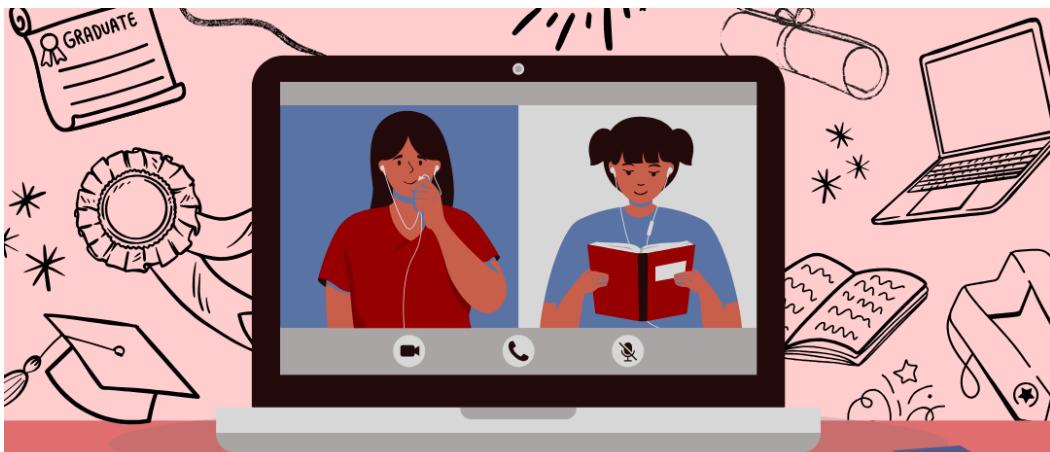
Martin Luther King, Jr. Exhibition Feb. 13

Together with the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, Penn Talent Search invites participants, community, and family members to our Fourth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Exhibition on **Friday, February 13** at 4:30 p.m.

This year's theme is **Unarmed Truth and Unconditional Love**, drawn from a line in Dr. King's December 1964 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech: *"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality."*

Join us in Irvine Auditorium's Cafe 58 (3401 Spruce Street) as a select group of young writers showcases their poetry honoring Dr. King and his legacy. Refreshments will be served.





COLLEGE CORNER

SCHOLARSHIPS

Wednesday, February 11, 6-7pm

- **School vs. outside scholarships**
- **How to win a scholarship**
- **How scholarships affect financial aid packages**

Zoom link on Canvas!



Are you a high school student getting ready to apply to college? Join our counselor, Ms. Sofia, for College Corner, a series of live webinars covering everything you need to know about the college application process.

This month's session on **Wednesday, February 11** at 6 pm will cover Scholarships!

Join on Zoom:

<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/92100309823?pwd=x5LHaixCb1wn8EvSeieFjp7nPvwaNF.1>

College Corner meets on select Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Though sessions are geared toward helping 12th graders accomplish their college application goals, younger students are welcome to join for a preview of what's next.

Black History Month Events in Philadelphia



Did you know that 2026 marks the **100th anniversary** of Black History Month? The theme for this year's celebration is "A Century of Black History Commemorations." [Click here to learn more](#) about the origins of Black History Month and why it's celebrated during the month of February.

Saturday, February 7

Please Touch Museum: Black History Celebration

Explore immersive, hands-on workshops celebrating Black changemakers past and present — from inventing and dancing to designing and drumming.

Pennsylvania Convention Center: 34th Annual African American Children's Book Fair

Meet the creators of some of the best children's books of our generation. The book fair will feature appearances by celebrated authors and illustrators including Derrick Barnes, Vanessa Brantley-Newton, Bryan Collier, Rita Williams Garcia, Nikki Grimes, EB Lewis, Kadir Nelson, and more!

Founder's Hall at Girard College: Black History Month Open House

In honor of Black History Month, join us at our February Open House as we highlight the history of the desegregation of Girard College. Learn about the three generations of Black Philadelphia activists who fought from the 19th century until 1968 for this change, from Nathan Mossel to Raymond and Sadie Alexander to Cecil B. Moore and the Freedom Fighters. Explore the legacy of the the pioneering Girard students of color and the ongoing work of the school today.

Museum of the American Revolution: "It Begins with Each of Us: Fostering Racial Understanding" Forum

Using the nation's 250th anniversary as an opportunity for both remembering the past and preparing for the future, presenters will explore examples of African American contributions to the United States throughout its history, through the lens of the historic sites that preserve these stories, as well as research-based recommendations for more deeply engaging young adults, especially Generation Z, in the civic life of the nation as we work together to create the future.

Saturday, February 14

Joseph E. Coleman Northwest Regional Library: Leon Jordan, Jr. Quintet Concert

Join us for Black History Revisited, a musical celebration of Black American history and culture in honor of Black History Month. This program is sponsored by the Library, and the Musicians Union (Local 77). For all ages.

Saturday, February 21

Mural Arts: Black History Month Civic Heroes Trolley Tour

Join us for a special trolley tour featuring murals that represent iconic Black figures, civic heroes, and insightful social justice issues. A professional tour guide will take guests through Philadelphia neighborhoods to view these stunning and impactful murals, hear the stories behind each work of art, and learn about the artists as well as the mural-making process.

Sunday, February 22

Historical Society of Philadelphia: A Century of Black History Commemoration

Join the Philadelphia Heritage and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History for a public program to commemorate the history, legacy, and preservation of ASALH and its founder, Carter G. Woodson. Featuring a talk with historian Dr. Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, a

reading of the 2026 Black History Month proclamation, and more, this program kicks off a year of celebration of the founder's enduring work to preserve and educate the public on Black history.

Friday, February 27

Oak Lane Library: Renaissance Orchestra Jazz Concert

Jazz is back at the Oak Lane Library! In celebration of Black History Month, the Friends of the Oak Lane Library are hosting the Renaissance Orchestra for an all ages, after-hours show. Space will be limited so please arrive early - the doors will open at 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 28

Laurel Hill West Cemetery: Black Trailblazers Walking Tour

Join us for a walking tour through Laurel Hill West where resilience, artistry, activism, and quiet heroism rest side by side. Together, we'll honor the lives of Black Philadelphians whose legacies echo far beyond their headstones — trailblazers who carved paths through adversity and left indelible marks on the city's history. It's a tour of remembrance, reflection, and connection.

Advocate for Talent Search and Other TRIO Programs

Did you know that Penn Talent Search is a federal TRIO program?

TRIO programs operate in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., the Pacific Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Collectively, [**more than 3,400 TRIO programs**](#)

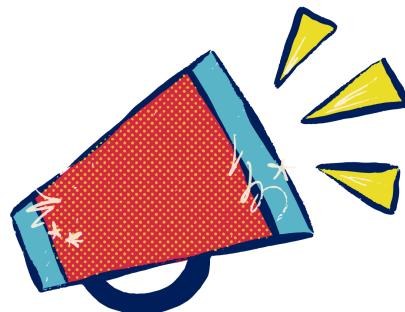
nationwide help nearly one million students enter and graduate from college each year. Penn Talent Search alone serves 583 students in Philadelphia.

Recently, the White House issued a [**budget proposal**](#) that would **eliminate all TRIO programs** in the coming year. Across the country, TRIO students could lose access to the academic advising, career guidance, and personal support that make success possible for so many first-generation and low-income students.

Policymakers in Congress need to hear from YOU — the TRIO students, parents, and families — about the importance of protecting Talent Search and other programs, so we can continue to support every one of our participants along their educational journey!

[**Use this link to contact your senators and representative**](#) asking for continued support for federal TRIO programs.

Thank you for being a TRIO advocate!



Opportunities for Talent Search Scholars

Women in Natural Sciences Program

WINS is a **free after-school and summer science enrichment program** serving young women facing financial limitations within the Philadelphia School District. Since its founding in 1982, WINS has introduced hundreds of high school women to future careers in science and other professions by providing hands-on science workshops, career and

Exelon Foundation STEM Academy

Step into the future of energy and sustainability at the Exelon Foundation STEM Academy—a **free, week-long, residential program** designed for young women who want to spark change. All participants will stay on-campus at Saint Joseph's University for the week. The 2026 program runs from August 2 to 7.

college exploration and positive youth development.

Students must be nominated by a teacher counselor, family member, or friend no later than February 15. The nominated student will then get a nomination letter and package by the end of February detailing the steps to apply.

Nominees should be:

- **Female, resident of Philadelphia**
- **Currently in 8th grade** and planning to attend a Philadelphia public or charter high school with a B average
- Motivated and prepared to invest in their own success

[Click here to get more information and start the nomination process.](#)

Exelon Foundation Boys to STEM Academy

Fuel your curiosity at the Exelon Foundation Boys to STEM Academy—a **free, week-long, residential program** that challenges young men to take on the big questions of energy, climate change, and sustainability. All participants will stay on-campus at Saint Joseph's University for the week. The 2026 program runs from August 2 to 7.

Participants will:

- Tackle hands-on STEM projects and real-world challenges
- Compete in a weeklong energy challenge
- Explore cutting-edge ideas for a sustainable future
- Build essential leadership and teamwork skills

Throughout the week, you'll connect with mentors, collaborate with peers, and see how science, technology, and leadership come together to shape the world ahead. And just like future innovators deserve the right tools, every participant will receive an iPad to use during the Academy—yours to keep after the program ends!

Boys who are currently in 10th or 11th grade (Class of 2027 & 2028) in the PECO or Atlantic City Electric service areas (including Philadelphia) are welcome to apply for the program.

[Click here to get more info and apply no later than March 15.](#)

Participants will:

- Dive into hands-on activities and interactive field trips
- Connect with inspiring leaders in STEM and energy industry careers
- Collaborate with peers on real-world energy solutions
- Compete in an exciting energy challenge with prizes

Along the way, you'll strengthen your leadership skills, gain confidence, and discover how your ideas can help power a more sustainable world. Plus, every participant receives an iPad to use during the program—and keep afterwards!

Girls who are currently in 10th or 11th grade (Class of 2027 & 2028) in the PECO and Atlantic City Electric service areas (including Philadelphia) are welcome to apply for the program.

[Click here to get more info and apply no later than March 15.](#)

PCOM Opportunities Academy Summer STEM Program

Philadelphia area high school student participants have the opportunity to **explore careers in health care** while building relationships with PCOM faculty and medical student mentors during this summer STEM camp.

The Opportunities Academy takes place in June of each year at PCOM's Philadelphia campus on City Avenue. This program is **available to Philadelphia area high school students at no cost.**

Students will participate in clinical skills simulations in the Saltzburg Clinical Learning and Assessment Center, visit the anatomy lab, participate in heart and brain anatomy labs, learn CPR and more. Additionally, participants will learn about the college application process as well as build networks with physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, physical therapists, counselors, psychologists and other healthcare professionals.

The 2026 Opportunities Academy will be held June 15-18.

[Click here to get more info and complete the interest form to be added to the mailing list.](#)



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