



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

WEOP Happenings

ISSUE 2/DECEMBER 2025

FEATURED STORIES

Welcome!

Welcome to The WEOP Happenings! In this biannual newsletter, you will stay up to date with all the exciting things happening in WEOP Educational Talent Search. The goal of this newsletter is to provide updates, share information and encourage family connection within our WEOP Educational Talent Search program.

What is Educational Talent Search?

TRIO Educational Talent Search is a federally funded program that supports middle and high school students in preparing for college and career success. The program's goal is to increase high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment among students from low-income, first-generation, and other underrepresented backgrounds by providing academic, career, and financial aid guidance along the way.

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We MOVED!

WEOP Eau Claire has moved to a new office. Find us at 221 W. Madison Street, Suite 201, Eau Claire, WI 54703.



Students visited Northwood Technical College and UWEC - Barron County!

College Visit Recap

On November 12, 18 high school students from North and Memorial hopped on a bus and traveled to Rice Lake, WI to visit Northwood Technical College and UWEC – Barron County.

The students got a tour and admissions presentation at both schools. Students learned of the many career opportunities they have to offer at both schools – with Northwood Technical College being more geared towards trade school, and UWEC – Barron County offering more Associate Degree programs or a place to start to earn your generals and then transfer to a four-year university.



Eau Claire Hmong New Year: Celebrating 50 Years of Strength and Tradition

This year's Eau Claire Hmong New Year carries a special kind of magic. As dancers take the stage in vibrant embroidered outfits and elders smile proudly from the audience, the community celebrates not only a new season but **50 years of Hmong people in the United States.**



The sound of qeej music fills the air, blending with laughter, cheering from sports tournaments, and the aroma of traditional foods. Families reunite, children show off their sparkling outfits, and generations stand side by side in a celebration filled with gratitude and joy.



Every tradition feels more meaningful this year from pov pobj ball tossing to the fashion shows and cultural dances. Each moment honors the ancestors who journeyed to America decades ago and built a new life with strength, courage, and hope.

Fifty years after the first Hmong refugees arrived, the community in Eau Claire continues to grow, thrive, and carry its culture forward with pride. This year's New Year celebration is not just a festival it's a tribute to resilience, identity, and the bright future ahead.



Rising Leaders Group

Led by Bee Yang, Education Specialist

This year, the Rising Leaders group has been hard at work developing the skills and mindset needed to make a meaningful difference—both within our school and throughout the wider community. What began as a small group of motivated students has grown into a dynamic team dedicated to teamwork, service, and positive change. Throughout the semester, members participated in workshops focused on compassion, communication, and collaboration. These activities helped students grow more confident in their ability to lead and support others all the while trying to find solutions to help their communities.



DPI/WEOP Leaders Visit our Schools

This fall, leaders from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Program (WEOP) visited our region to learn how WEOP supports students and families. WEOP is part of DPI's Division of Access & Opportunity and is dedicated to helping students explore options, plan for the future, and succeed in school and beyond.

On September 26, cabinet leaders Paul Manriquez (Assistant State Superintendent), Sara Knueve (Assistant Deputy State Superintendent), and Tacara Lovings (Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives) visited the Eau Claire WEOP office and toured Memorial High School and DeLong Middle School. WEOP Eau Claire proudly administers the TRIO Educational Talent Search program, serving 6th–12th grade students at Memorial HS, North HS, Northstar MS, DeLong MS, and South MS. During the visit, leaders met with school principals and staff to celebrate strong partnerships and explore ways to grow support for students.

The excitement continued on October 17 with a visit to the Ashland WEOP office, Ashland High School and Middle School. In the Ashland region, WEOP administers both the TRIO Educational Talent Search and GEAR UP programs, serving 6th–12th graders at Ashland High School and Middle School, as well as Bayfield High School and Middle School.

These visits highlight DPI/WEOP's commitment to building strong school partnerships and expanding opportunities for students across northern Wisconsin!



Sara Knueve



Tacara Lovings



Paul Manriquez

Join WEOP Today!

Ready to level up your future? TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS) is now enrolling students in grades 6–12 at DeLong MS, Northstar MS, South MS, North HS, and Memorial HS — and spots are limited! ETS is a free, federally funded program that helps students succeed with academic support, college and career exploration, financial aid help, test prep, and exciting college campus visits.

Why Join ETS?

Academic Support & Guidance: One-on-one academic counseling, tutoring, and workshops help you grow confidence and skills to excel in school.

College & Career Planning: Get help exploring future careers, building your college list, and planning every step from applications to acceptance.

Financial Aid & Scholarship Assistance: Learn how to complete college applications, apply for FAFSA or scholarships, and understand financial aid options.

Test Prep & Readiness Workshops: Prepare for college entrance exams with targeted support and strategies to boost your performance.

College Campus Visits & Cultural Trips: Experience real college environments and exciting cultural events that expand your horizons.

Family Engagement: Workshops and resources help your parents or guardians support your goals every step of the way.

Don't wait — your future starts here!

Sign Up Today & Transform Your Tomorrow!

Website and link: <https://botform.com/pansol.com/242183763149966>

Application QR Code:



TRIO ETS — your guide from middle school to high school graduation and beyond.

Contact your WEOP ETS Education Specialists today!

Kacie Glaser: Kacie.Glaser@dpi.wi.gov
Memorial HS, DeLong MS, South MS

Bee Yang: BeeYang@dpi.wi.gov
North HS, NorthStar MS



Attention All Seniors, Don't Miss Out on Free Money for College — Apply Today!

Parents and students, planning for college just got easier! Through the Wisconsin Educational Opportunity Program (WEOP), eligible students can apply for two valuable sources of financial support: the GEAR UP Scholarship and the TIP Grant.



GEAR UP Scholarship supports students who participated in the GEAR UP program by helping cover college costs. Awards are available to eligible seniors and may continue for multiple years of college.

Link to application: <https://dpi.wi.gov/weop/gearup/scholarship>

TIP Grant (Talent Incentive Program) is a need-based state grant for first-time college students from low-income backgrounds. It's free money (not a loan) and can be renewed for up to 10 semesters with continued eligibility.

Link to application: <https://dpi.wi.gov/weop/tip-grant>

These funds can make a big difference in making college affordable. Funding is limited, so apply as soon as possible! Talk with your WEOP Education Specialist or school counselor today to get started.

WEOP Eau Claire Staff

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