In 2002, Los Angeles Southwest College was awarded one of the U.S. Department of Education’s federally funded TRIO grants called: Educational Talent Search. Since 2002, Talent Search has assisted numerous students with college entrance exams, financial aid, scholarships, housing applications, tutorial services, and college going workshops, academic advisement, mentoring, summer programs, field trips and college campus tours.

Students accepted into the program are residents of South Los Angeles and may attend one of the following school sites:

- Bret Harte Middle School
- Samuel Gompers Middle School
- Animo Phillis Wheatley Middle School
- Animo Western Middle
- Animo Locke Tech High School
- Animo Locke 2 High School
- Animo Locke 3 High School
- Washington Preparatory High School
- King-Drew Medical Magnet High School

Since 2005, Talent Search participants obtained additional assistance with career advisement, youth summer jobs, Christmas toy giveaways, free items such as school supplies and snacks. Participants also receive clothes and group counseling, mentoring with professionals in the field of study of the participant’s career choice, advanced courses (honor, rigorous and college courses) to assist with school promotion or college entrance and middle school scholarships. Students get help with applying for scholarships, awarding of certificates for completion, referrals to community-based organizations and other programs to enhance their portfolio.

With all of our accomplishments and efforts, we reluctantly have to inform you that during this time of our country’s economic crisis our program will be affected for the 2013-2014 academic year. Due to sequestration, we will take a 5.23% cut to our funding for that year. With that said we will decrease the number of students we will serve for the year in order to keep the same level of service given our available funding.

We look forward to working with you to improve the retention, high school graduation, and transition to college for students in the neighborhoods of South Los Angeles.

Respectfully,

Sidney Cosby, M.A.
Program Coordinator