

## **Background and 2020 Program**

# UpTop's Mission

Helping to **close the digital divide** by **awarding laptops** to economically and circumstantially disadvantaged **college-bound high school students** in Denton, Texas.



**Denton  
Evening  
Rotary**



**Denton  
Evening  
Rotary**

# UpTop's History

- Fall 2016 the effort began and partnership developed with the Talent Search Program at Ryan High School
- Spring 2017 first awards granted
- Summer 2017 taken on by the Denton Evening Rotary and began planning fundraising efforts (Winter Warmer)
- Spring 2018 first Winter Warmer is a success and year two awards granted
- Spring 2019 second Winter Warmer is a bigger success and third year awards granted
- Summer 2019 plans are made to expand the program to the Denton High School Talent Search program
- March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 will be the 3rd Annual Winter Warmer



# Talent Search Program

- **College-prep program** that is federally funded through the Department of Education, administered locally by the University of North Texas
- **Supports primarily low-income/first generation students** in pursuing education after high school.
- **Students identified by teachers/counselors as having high potential** for college and during the school year meet individually and in small groups for college preparation workshops.
- **Students must be college-bound** and have a **minimum G.P.A. of 3.0** by the senior year to remain active.
- **Fall of senior year students spend an average of 10-20 hours with the counselor** in individual and group sessions completing paper work for college applications, scholarships, housing, and financial aid.
- **100% of the seniors in Talent Search are accepted by at least one college.**



**Denton  
Evening  
Rotary**

# Talent Search Program Administrators

**Diane Owen, M.Ed., LPC**

Talent Search TRiO Counselor  
Ryan High School

University of North Texas TRiO  
Programs



**LeAnn Birden**

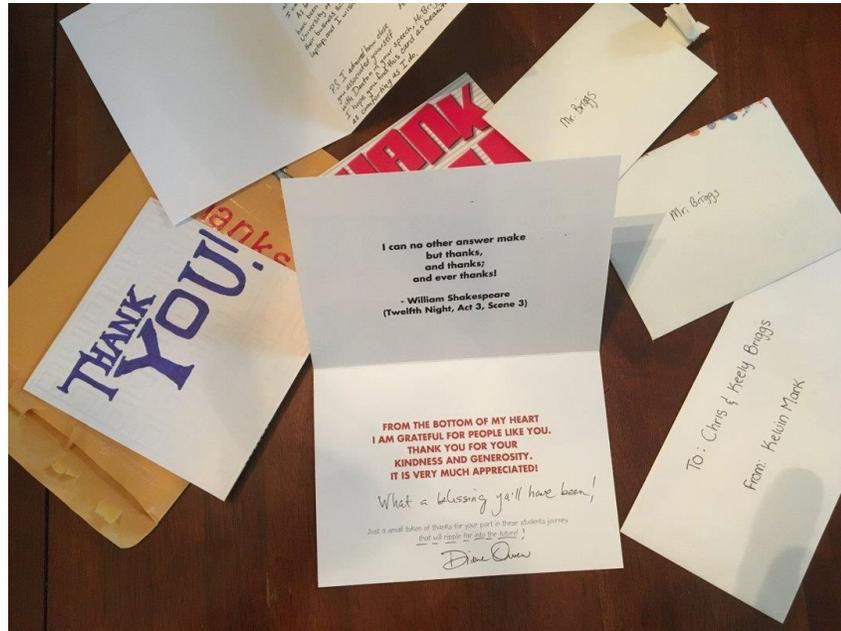
Talent Search TRiO Counselor  
Denton High School

University of North Texas TRiO  
Programs





# Making Impacts & Extending Our Reach



From the bottom of my heart I am grateful for people like you. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. It is very much appreciated. What a blessing ya'll have been! This is a small token of thanks for your part in these students' journey that will ripple far into the future. – **Diane Owen, Talent Search TRiO Counselor at Ryan High School**

“I’ve had to use my laptop every single night in college whether it be for projects or homework,” Estrella Chacon said. “Everything now in college is based off electronics — unlike high school that has paper homework that you turn in.” Chacon attends the University of Texas at Arlington pursuing a degree in nursing. She said that UpTop and the Talent Search program were instrumental in giving her a push toward more academic pursuits



**Denton  
Evening  
Rotary**

# Making Impacts & Extending Our Reach



Spring 2017: 6 laptop scholarships awarded in the program's inaugural year.

# Making Impacts & Extending Our Reach



**Denton  
Evening  
Rotary**



Spring 2018: 18 laptop scholarships awarded. We met 100% of the application demand.



**Denton  
Evening  
Rotary**

# Making Impacts & Extending Our Reach

Spring 2019: 28 laptop scholarships awarded. We again met 100% of the application demand.



# Making Impacts & Extending Our Reach



**Denton  
Evening  
Rotary**

For 2020 UpTop has expanded support to one additional high school and we are estimating at least 55 qualified student applications for a new laptop. We aim to meet 100% of that demand. We will need a lot of help.

# Winter Warmer 2020

- Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>
- Bearded Monk and Denton County Brewing Co. (our gracious venue partners for three years)
- Tickets will be going on sell by the end of January
- \$10 gets one ticket for beer and food
- Door prizes and great live music (2020 lineup being announced soon)





# Additional Fundraising

- **Sponsor a laptop** (or two, or three). \$250 funds one laptop. Your organization or company will be recognized
- **Recycling old laptops**
  - Working with Computer Crusher (locally owned and operated business here in Denton)
  - Companies and organizations decommission bulk laptops
  - We work with Computer Crusher to collect, wipe, and refurbish/recycle
  - Proceeds go Denton Evening Rotary UpTop for purchase of new laptops

# Contact

EMAIL: [UpTop.Contact@gmail.com](mailto:UpTop.Contact@gmail.com)

Website: [UpTopDenton.org](http://UpTopDenton.org)

Twitter: [@UpTop\\_Denton](https://twitter.com/UpTop_Denton)

Facebook: [@UpTopDenton](https://www.facebook.com/UpTopDenton)