

## For More Information

Visit the Center for Talent Development's Web site at [www.ctd.northwestern.edu](http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu) or call 847-491-3782.

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## Our Mission

Since 1981 the Center for Talent Development at Northwestern University has been a leader in educating gifted young people, providing information and helping students grow through research, programs, affiliations, and scholarships.

More than 350,000 families have seen their children's talents flower through the center's efforts. Center director Paula Olszewski-Kubilius, PhD, is a nationally recognized leader with more than 20 years of experience in the field.

The center is a prominent force in gifted education by virtue of its extensive contributions to research, particularly in the areas of accelerated learning and special populations of gifted learners.



# CENTER *for* TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Serving Gifted Children  
and Their Families



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY

## Accreditation

The Center for Talent Development is the only university-based gifted center to be accredited as a “special function school” by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Because of the accreditation, students can receive high school credit for courses taken at the center.

## Our Students

The center provides opportunities for gifted learners from diverse backgrounds. Flexible admissions options allow nontraditional students — such as home-schoolers and those unable to show their abilities on typically used standardized tests — to be admitted to center programs, and facilitate the participation of underrepresented students. The need-based CTD Scholar Program has helped support students since 1994, and special grant-supported projects assist students from low-income and/or underrepresented minority groups.

## Talent Search Programs

Academically talented sixth through ninth graders are identified by Midwest Talent Search and academically talented third through sixth graders through Midwest Talent Search for Young Students. The Talent Search’s “off-level” tests identify mathematical and verbal reasoning abilities more accurately than the grade-level tests typically given in schools. Extensive academic counseling materials help students understand their scores, plan for the future, and benefit from specialized curricula, enrichment programs, and accelerated courses of study.



## School-Year Programs

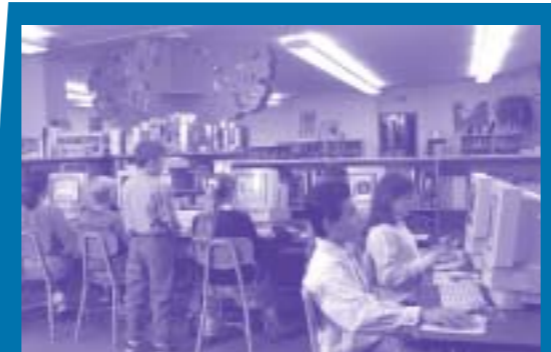
The center’s school-year programs are designed to supplement students’ school programs and/or enable them to take advanced courses early.

### *Saturday Enrichment Program*

This program allows prekindergarten through ninth-grade students to explore science, mathematics, and the humanities at a pace and in a peer grouping compatible with their abilities. Fall, winter, and spring courses are available. Parent seminars are held throughout the year.

### *LetterLinks Program*

This distance-learning program provides accredited high school honors and Advanced Placement courses to sixth- through twelfth-grade students who have busy class schedules or limited course offerings available in their schools. Expert teachers work individually with each student. Students may begin in September, February, or June. Additional mathematics courses from elementary through college level are available through a partnership with Stanford University’s Education Program for Gifted Youth.



### *The Civic Education Project*

This program combines traditional education and community service projects across the country to promote civic responsibility among young people during school breaks and the summer. CEP helps adolescents develop the knowledge, experience, and leadership skills to make a positive impact on society.

### *Project EXCITE*

Evolving from the collaborative efforts between the Center for Talent Development and Evanston School Districts 65 and 202, Project EXCITE identifies talented minority students in the third grade and nurtures their talents in mathematics and science until they enter high school.

## Conferences and Courses

For parents, students, and educators, the fall conference “Activating Potential” and the summer conference “Opportunities for the Future” emphasize the importance of early planning and decision making for gifted youth. Experts in the field of gifted education give talks and interact with parents on a range of issues related to the academic, social, and emotional development of talented children. Continuing professional development units (CPDUs) are available for Illinois educators attending the center’s conferences. In addition, courses are offered throughout the year

for educators seeking to increase their effectiveness in working with gifted students.

## Summer Academic Programs

Summer program offerings include courses in mathematics, science, and the humanities. All programs except Leapfrog meet for three weeks, five hours per day, with commuter and resident options available.

### *Leapfrog*

For prekindergarten through third graders, Leapfrog provides five half-days a week of innovative academics. The fast-paced classes include many hands-on activities designed to help students acquire and practice new concepts in challenging and interesting ways.

### *Apogee*

For fourth through sixth graders, Apogee offers engaging and often interdisciplinary enrichment courses, as well as supervised recreational, social, and cultural activities and opportunities to form strong friendships with intellectual peers.

### *Spectrum*

For seventh through ninth graders, Spectrum provides enrichment or accelerated honors-level courses, study with master teachers, and interaction with intellectual and age peers in academic and social settings. It also offers extracurricular enrichment experiences to broaden adolescents’ knowledge of the world.

### *Equinox*

For tenth through twelfth graders and exceptional ninth graders, Equinox offers an invigorating mix of honors high school classes, including Advanced Placement courses and courses not typically offered to secondary students, and social and cultural activities.