

# 2020 RECOGNITION CEREMONY

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## WELCOME MESSAGE

I am pleased to welcome you to your 2020 recognition ceremony.

We're here to celebrate and to honor you for your exceptional scores on the ACT or SAT—scores that even a high school junior or senior would be proud to have achieved. You are to be congratulated, and so are your parents, educators, and family members who have helped you along the way.

Duke TIP is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping gifted students reach their full potential. We have lived this mission for 40 years, and for one very good reason: we envision a world where academically talented individuals flourish, transforming communities and the world.

The Talent Search Program began in 1980, when Duke University realized the importance of identifying and nurturing gifted and talented students just like you. The first Duke TIP Talent Search had a grand total of 8,710 seventh graders. Over the last 39 years, Duke TIP has expanded to serve the needs of gifted students in grades 4–12 and has now served over 3 million TIPsters and their families.

Duke TIP may be 3 million strong. Today, though, we are here to recognize you and your achievements.

## VIDEO MESSAGE FROM DUKE TIP ALUMNI AND STAFF



<https://vimeo.com/419061953>

*ceremony continues on page 2*



# Duke TIP

Duke University Talent Identification Program

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## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*This address is adapted from a speech made to TIPsters like you by Dr. Rick Courtright, a Duke TIP research specialist who retired in 2020 after a decades-long career devoted to education.*

It's a special honor to be a TIPster. It signals to the world that you take pride in your academic abilities, that you are unafraid to challenge yourself and grow, and that you value the knowledge, skills, and understanding produced by those who have gone before you. We welcome you into this community of peers who also value academic achievement.

I know you know why you're here today. I wonder, however, whether you really *understand* the significance of this recognition. There's a difference between knowing and understanding. They're quite different. Knowing is a function of memory. Understanding is a function of cognition, of thinking. My wish for you is that over time you'll fully come to *understand* the significance of your accomplishments—that you'll celebrate them, be proud of them, and extend them.

Perhaps one day you will be among the world's professors, writers, musicians, doctors, lawyers, researchers, architects, politicians, economists, entrepreneurs, and more. Among this group of TIPsters being recognized today may very well be our world's future leaders—the scientists who will push our frontiers of knowledge, the innovators who will help solve our planet's biggest challenges, and the visionary leaders who will bring us together and capture the essence of how we are all connected.

But no matter what your career goals are or what direction you choose for your life, please remember this: you are not alone. You are now part of a very special community, a community of students who value academic achievement and *understand* its importance to the future. One day, the world will be in your hands, and I have no doubt you will prove a worthy steward of our future.

I also want to express admiration and gratitude to all of those who have supported you and nurtured you along the way. They take great pride in your accomplishments as well, and I hope you likewise recognize their role in everything you do.

Duke TIP's Talent Search Program provides students with advanced learning opportunities, challenging resources, and special recognition for their accomplishments. We believe that all students have the right to learn, and that different students have different learning needs at different times. TIP wants to help you further cultivate your passion for learning and to develop academically and socially.

Be proud of your accomplishments. Accept this achievement as a stepping stone to even greater levels of success. The knowledge and experience you'll gain from being part of Duke TIP are invaluable. Your participation will help you better understand your own potential and your own place in the world. Best wishes to you as you continue to discover them both.

## PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE