



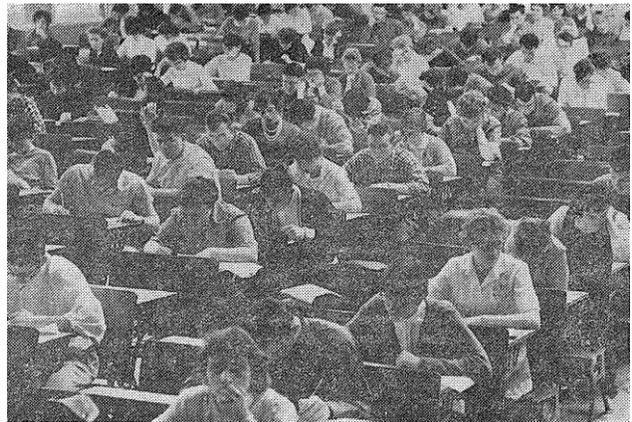
Tell your story...

AMERICAN INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH®

Dear Sir or Madam,

If you received this letter, it is because the class of 1960 from your high school participated in national study known as Project TALENT.

Project TALENT was the largest study of high school students ever conducted in the United States. In 1960, over 400,000 students from 1,300 schools across the country participated in a national survey of their aptitudes and abilities in mathematics, reasoning, and language, and shared their aspirations for the future.



The study surveyed students from backgrounds as diverse as the country itself: Participants came from small rural towns and inner city neighborhoods, from schools

on the verge of desegregation and from private and parochial academies.

The Project TALENT study captured the hopes, dreams, and concerns of a generation of young Americans coming of age on the cusp of a new era in American history. In 1960 the Civil Rights and Women's Liberation movements were gaining momentum, the Cold War and the space race were escalating and a newly elected young President was waiting to take office. The Project TALENT generation would be instrumental in the transformation of American society; they would usher in an age of unprecedented cultural richness and bear the brunt of national tragedy in the staggering loss of life suffered during the Vietnam War.

Fifty years after the original Project TALENT study, researchers and historians have become increasingly interested in this unique group of Americans. The American Institutes for Research, which developed and administered the original Project TALENT study in conjunction with the United States Office of Education, has launched an initiative to locate and reconnect with the Project TALENT participants. Our goals are twofold:

First, Project TALENT's testing in the areas of language, mathematics, and reasoning has helped researchers, educators, and policy-makers to better understand and develop the talents and abilities of students so that they can lead happy and productive lives. New information gained from a fifty-year follow up of Project TALENT participants could provide information and reveal factors that have real consequences for future health, education and aging policies. Project TALENT data could be used in a variety of ways, from aiding the fight against the high school drop-out crisis that threatens the economic future of the country to helping medical researchers find early predictors for degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's.

Second, we believe that, with the help of Project TALENT participants, we have an important opportunity to create an archive of distinctly American stories that will help us to understand our past and build a stronger future. Fifty years ago, the Project TALENT generation shared their unique stories with us. It's time for the next chapter.

We are writing to you because we think you may be able to help us reconnect with Project TALENT participants. If you are holding a reunion for the class of 1960, we would be interested in attending to briefly tell you more about the importance of Project TALENT and how you can participate. If you would like to be involved in this national project or if you have any questions, please contact Corbrett Hodson at chodson@air.org or by phone at (202) 403-6143. You can also find more information about Project TALENT on our website: www.projecttalent.org.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Lapham". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Susan Lapham
Director, Project TALENT
American Institutes for Research
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