

**March 26, 2014**

**SCORES AT LANE TECH AND WHITNEY YOUNG ACADEMIC CENTERS  
POST BIG INCREASE**

**Chicago, IL** –In the most recent round of admissions, composite scores rose at the two top Academic Centers, Whitney Young and Lane Tech by 10 and 20 points respectively. This means that on average any student accepted to these schools is in the top 1-3% academically. To reach Lane Tech’s 837 or Whitney Young’s 861 composite score, a student would need to get all A’s in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 5<sup>th</sup> grade test scores in the top 1% in both Reading and Math and Academic Center Admissions Test scores in the top 2-3% for Lane Tech and in the top 1% for Whitney Young. To put it another way, the high level of these scores puts these Academic Center students at the same level academically as admitted students at Walter Payton or Northside College Prep, the two most competitive Selective Enrollment High Schools.

**Figure 1. Academic Center Admissions Scores (2014-2015)**

	<b>2014-2015 composite mean<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>yr.-to- yr. change</b>	<b>2013-2014<sup>1</sup> composite mean</b>
Harlan	636	+21	615
Kenwood	748	+7	741
Lane Tech	837	<b>+20</b>	817
Lindblom	737	+6	732
Morgan Park	679	-3	683
Taft	779	+5	774
Young	861	<b>+10</b>	851

<sup>1</sup>In calculating the composite score, we assumed the ratio of seats as determined by the Tier admissions formula, e.g., 30% for Rank and 17.5% for each Tier.

While other Academic Centers flourish, Harlan and Morgan Park continue to struggle, putting into question the potential of these schools as viable “Academic Centers” – e.g., schools that offer high caliber programs to high caliber students. The 21 point rise in Harlan’s composite score to 636 is an improvement; however the score’s low overall level is a symptom of a school that is struggling to attract students with sufficiently high academic performance.

Scores for admitted Lane Tech students rose significantly in every admissions category. The large increase in Tier 1 mean scores helped narrow the gap between Tier 4 and Tier 1 average scores to 73 points. However, the size of this gap is still large. Even larger is the 101 point gap between the minimum Tier 1 score and the minimum Tier 4 score. An admitted Tier 4 student needs to get all A's in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, top 1% in both 5<sup>th</sup> grade Reading and Math test scores, and a score in the top 1.5% on the Academic Center Admissions Test to reach the Tier 4 cut-off score. On the other hand a Tier 1 student who received all A's in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, would only need to get 5<sup>th</sup> grade test scores and Academic Center Admissions Test scores in the top 17%.

**Figure 2. Lane Tech Admissions Scores (2014-2015)**

	<b>minimum</b>	<b>maximum</b>	<b>mean</b>	<b>yr.-to-yr. change in mean scores</b>
Tier 1	748	846	781	+38 points
Tier 2	789	843	816	+20 points
Tier 3	819	846	833	+8 points
Tier 4	849	858	854	+14 points
Rank	859	900	874	+18 points
Composite	748	900	837	+20 points

While the gap at Lane Tech narrowed, the gap between mean scores of admitted Taft Tier 4 and Tier 1 student widened to 126 points. An admitted Taft Tier 4 student needed to get all A's in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and in the top 5-6% on both 5<sup>th</sup> grade Reading and Math test scores and in the top 5-6% on the Academic Center Admissions Test. On the other hand, an admitted Tier 1 student with all A's in 5<sup>th</sup> grade only needed to get in the top 28-29% on 5<sup>th</sup> grade test scores and on the Academic Center Admissions Test. This disparity in Tier 4 and Tier 1 academic requirements is probably due in part to the difficulty Taft has in attracting Tier 1 students to such a distant neighborhood.

Lane Tech continues to close in on the most competitive Academic Center, Whitney Young. Composite Whitney Young scores are now only 24 points higher than those for Lane Tech, down 9 points from last year's 33 point difference. For Tier 4 applicants, the difference is only 10 points. Tier 4 students with scores in the top 1 percent are increasingly choosing Lane Tech. However, the gap between Tier 1 Whitney Young and Lane Tech students, while down 9 points as well, at 48 points, is still quite significant.

**Figure 3. Lane Tech vs. Whitney Young Academic Center Admissions Scores**

	<b>difference between Young and Lane Tech 2014-2015 mean scores</b>	<b>difference between Young and Lane Tech 2013-2014 mean scores</b>	<b>change in Young and Lane Tech score gap</b>
Rank	15 points	28 points	<b>-13 points</b>
Tier 1	48 points	57 points	<b>-9 points</b>
Tier 2	22 points	35 points	<b>-13 points</b>
Tier 3	27 points	25 points	+2 points
Tier 4	15 points	25 points	<b>-10 points</b>
Composite	24 points	33 points	<b>-9 points</b>

According to Matthew Greenberg, partner of educational services firm SelectivePrep, “The latest increase in Academic Center admissions scores puts admissions requirements for the top two Academic Centers, Whitney Young and Lane Tech, at stratospheric levels. These schools, if they are successful in retaining their middle school students, could provide their high school with a contingent of high performing students that rival the top Selective Enrollment High Schools in academic caliber.

Greenberg continued, “Lane Tech Academic Center is closing in on Whitney Young. High achieving north side residents see Lane Tech as a viable and convenient alternative and are increasingly choosing it over Whitney Young. However, Lane Tech’s location far from most lower Tier neighborhoods may make it challenging for the school to narrow the gap among lower Tier students.”

**About SelectivePrep**

SelectivePrep was founded by test prep veterans with over 25 years of test preparation experience – and extensive backgrounds in both classroom teaching and curriculum development. SelectivePrep offers the *only* classroom program that prepares students for all of the standardized tests needed to gain admission to a Selective Enrollment High School or Academic Center. SelectivePrep knows what it takes to train and motivate students who are intent upon gaining admission to one of the ten Chicago Selective Enrollment High Schools or one of seven Academic Centers. SelectivePrep’s programs provide a thorough and rigorous review of test content, so students can approach these competitive admissions processes with confidence.

For additional information and registration go to [www.selectiveprep.com](http://www.selectiveprep.com) or call (312) 409-8411.