Summer is here!

By Pennie Douglas, Executive Director

Dust off your bogie boards, pull out the lawn chairs, and head to the beach...No wait Summer Session 😞 omg! But wait again is that so bad?? Getting ahead in classes, taking a challenging class in half the time, boosting your GPA, taking your passion and finding your career.

Summer is a great time for recovery, discovery and building resiliency. Take your learning outside. If Covid has taught us one thing is that classrooms are not restricted to the inside. Take a deep dive into your favorite subject. Try research with a passion that interests you. Take an entrepreneurial course. Whatever you do, don't waste the day following the feed.

I’ve come across many students that ask what is a college education worth with so many students in mountains of debt. So I return the question with a question. How many of those students researched the degrees and the career prospects before they took endless classes? How many of those students interned at companies where their degree would be useful? How many students took out loans they knew they could not pay back but did it anyway without a viable repayment plan?

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Summer Poetry and Writing Clinic

African American students interested in Spoken Word, honing writing skills, or just want to have fun writing and reciting poetry. SAG is offering this clinic to produce your authentic self expression of artistic prose and language. The clinic will provide a base for your reflective essays to be used later in scholarship and college admission essays.

Simply submit a brief 200 word statement, why education is important to you. Once accepted students will receive an confirmation email to notify of their acceptance to the program.

Cost: $35

March 29, 2022

The 117th Congress passes Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act making lynching officially a federal hate crime that carries a penalty of 30 years. Legislation first introduced 122 years earlier almost to the month in February 1900 by the sole Black person in Congress George Henry White. After 200 failed attempts to pass both House and the Senate, finally in 2022 some semblance of the bill passes with still three holdouts. Ironically, in my first google search the credit to the first attempt suggests Dyer a White Republican in 1918, even then it does not pass.

With slightly under 5,000 reported lynchings from 1882-1968 by the NAACP, not including all the underreported and unknown accounts. Strange Fruit indeed. My question to my Scholars; are we done? Is this enough? If not, what is the next steps?

Do your own research.

Rhodes is a national, four-year, private, coeducational, residential college committed to the liberal arts and sciences. The highest priorities are intellectual engagement, service to others, and honor among themselves and they mean honor. Rhodes is one of the country’s most beautiful campuses in the heart of Memphis, Tennessee.

When I visited Rhodes College, it was on a last minute recommendation from a colleague. I went completely unannounced (not recommended) and was given the full tour by Zoe Scott, Ast. Dir Admissions (great asset). I unexpectedly met and chatted with Dr. Turner, VP of Strategic Initiatives (invaluable insight).

This College is truly a gem and warrants serious investigation WHD Scholars!
Case study Student A
In high school Student A dreamed to be a kinesiologist. He applied to Cal Baptist and La Sierra University both private colleges. He was accepted to both and decided to go to Cal Baptist. To pay for his education he decided to take out student loans to cover costs. Unfortunately, he neither did research on his field nor did he have a plan of repayment.

By his third year he worked for a kinesiologist and decided it was not for him. He did some research and learned the top salary in his profession would not be enough to cover his current student loan debt. Additionally, being pressured by parents to find a job, he did and dropped out of college. He took a low paying job, still unable to pay his student loan debt.

Three things are blaring. No research on desired profession entry level salary. No previous internships as a kinesiologist or working with one. Accepting debt without a clear plan of repayment. WHD Recommended solutions: If you have a career choice in mind, volunteer, intern, or shadow that career during the summer. To research salaries in your chosen field, just go to https://www.bls.gov/bls/blswage.htm. Prior to accepting student loans, try Work Study and Scholarships. Community college in the first two years is always an great option, then transfer if you still want to attend a particular school.

The bottom line for WHD is that college education is invaluable if approached in the appropriate manner. Post secondary education is not just about getting a degree. Its about the transmission of values and knowledge. As I always said it not about one and one is two, but about why one and one makes two. The how and the why is the most valuable aspect of learning.

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