



KAUFFMAN
SCHOLARS, INC.

Parent pulse

Parents Uniting Long-term for Scholar Excellence

Upcoming

Please mark your calendars:

Training

Admissions for Class 3
Family Interviews
May 22-June 8

Walk-In-My-Shoes
Date to Be Determined

Parent Workshops
Begin for New Year
September, 2006

Upcoming Scholar Activities and Events

"NEW DATE"
Saturday, June 24, 2006
KSI Talent Show

Summer Enrichment Academy Begins (Kansas)
Monday, June 5, 2006

Summer Enrichment Academy Begins (Missouri)
Monday, June 19, 2005

Hundreds of Scholars and Parents Turn Out for Destination: College! Conference

Nearly 600 Scholars, parents and their guests participated in *Destination: College!*, a day-long conference and college fair for Kauffman Scholars, parents, and guest student and parent participants from around the community. The conference took place on Saturday, May 20, 2006 at the Metropolitan Community College Business and Technology College in Kansas City, Missouri. Conference-goers had the chance to gather information from 18 regional colleges and universities, and to attend workshops specially designed to address the questions foremost in the minds of young people and their parents



regarding college access. Twelve workshops were offered, focusing on a variety of topics, such as *College Entrance: Is it Your Right?*; *Transcript: It's Your Credit Score*; *College Doesn't Have to Be Scary: What Parents Can Do to Support and Encourage Their Future Graduate*; and *You're Not in This Alone: How to Collaborate with other Parents to Ensure Scholar Success*.

A highlight of the event was a keynote luncheon presentation by Raymundo Rojas,

Latino literature historian and activist in the movement of immigration and labor rights.



Rojas used a stepladder to illustrate the concept of "putting the ladder down to help others climb up," encouraged Scholars to capture their unique family history by writing down the memories of their parents and grandparents, and told Scholars to be true to themselves in pursuing career interests. During his presentation, Rojas shared contemporary Latino poetry with the audience, and read an original poem that he wrote titled *What's All the Holler about a Kauffman Scholar*. Rojas has a law degree from the University of Kansas School of Law and a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of Texas at El Paso.

Destination: College! proved to be an excellent resource for Scholars, parents and guests. "The importance and the power of information about college-going should never be underestimated," said Dr. Stephen Green, Kauffman Scholars President and CEO.

"In addition to addressing the achievement gap in our community, we must address the information gap with equal importance. This conference is one of many ways to reach out and close the information gap."



Greetings,

Summer is on the horizon, and the much-anticipated season ushers in new opportunities for parents and Scholars to spend quality time together. When parents consider the coming vacation months, it is important to think about activities and family practices that will help your children stay mentally sharp and healthy until the start of the new academic year.

Many young urban students are at-risk for a phenomenon called “learning loss” during the summer, because they do not have access to summer education enrichment camps and courses that are more readily available to students in more prosperous communities. Kauffman Scholars addresses this need through our Summer Academic Enrichment Academy (SAEA) which is specifically designed to keep students focused and engaged in activities that nurture the intellect, and encourage healthy community participation.

During the summer, when parents and children have more time to spend together, parents can use the opportunity to encourage healthier eating habits. Summer is a perfect time to persuade young people to eat more fresh fruits and vegetables, and to take the time to sit down together for a family meal everyday. The season makes outdoor activities especially appealing, and parents can encourage their children to get a healthy amount of exercise by participating in supervised games at community recreation centers.

Television can be an especially tempting distraction when a young person has time on his or her hands, and so can the Internet. Watching too much TV is thought by many experts to be one of the main culprits in summer brain drain, and a contributing factor throughout the year to teenage obesity. Statistics show that the average American youth spends 900 hours per year in school, yet he or she spends 1,023 hours per year watching television! The average time per day American children spend in front of a screen of some kind (TV or computer) is nearly five hours.

Young people may say they are bored if they cannot watch TV, but that brief experience of boredom could spur a new burst of creativity. Encourage your child to prepare for the “What I Did on My Summer Vacation” essay by keeping a journal of daily activities and new insights. Nurture a love of reading by visiting the library together, and share your thoughts on the books you’ve selected. Let summer spark your imagination! Summer is a beautiful season for nature’s growth, and with parents’ help, it can be a season for children to blossom.

Regards,

R. Stephen Green, Ed.D.
President and CEO



Pam Harris,
Parent Engagement Specialist

Parent Engagement Specialist: *Thought for the Month*

Teens and Power Struggles - Part 2: What Do You Do?

What do you do? Here are some routines you can learn that will help you avoid power struggles with your teenager:

- Determine what the consequences will be before an inappropriate behavior happens.
- Use an Action Plan if necessary.
- Learn to speak in a calm but firm tone. Keep the lines of communication open. Yelling and screaming never helps.
- Take deep breaths, count back from 100, and remember the goal is to have a happy, healthy young adult when you are done.
- Be consistent with the limits and rules.
- Use natural and logical consequences. Be firm and stick with them.
- Expect non-compliance. Testing the limits is normal behavior for a teenager.
- Listen to their feelings and keep an open mind. You still have the ability to say no, so why not listen to what they have to say.
- Stay rational – you are the adult. If need be, take a ‘time out’ yourself.

Busy Mom and Daughter Share More Experiences through Kauffman Scholars

When Sherry Pryor arrived in Kansas City about twenty years ago with her infant son Jremekyo, she was taking a leap of faith about a new life far from the small town of Nashville, Arkansas, where she was raised. Sherry decided to follow her pastor and his wife shortly after they chose to move back to Kansas City; after graduating from high school, she made the brave move.

Over the years that followed, Sherry studied elementary education for about a year at Penn Valley Community College, and added two more children to her family; daughter Quanisha, and another son, Shaquille. For the past nine years, Sherry has worked at the corporate office of Sutherland Lumber.

Although she has yet to finish college, Sherry knew she wanted her children to have the opportunity to do so. Her oldest son, nicknamed Mekyo, was awarded a music scholarship and is currently a junior at Prairie View A&M College in Texas. When Sherry heard about the Kauffman Scholars program in 2003, she knew it was a great opportunity Quanisha should explore.



“My daughter had always excelled in academics, and I was really thrilled by the possibility of her receiving a fully paid college education,” Sherry said. “It’s a wonderful resource, especially for a single parent.”

Quanisha became a member of the first class of Scholars, and Sherry participates in the first class of parents. “As a parent, my favorite part of the program is working alongside Quanisha in community projects,” Sherry observed. In April, mother and daughter both participated in the Kauffman Scholars National Youth Service Day project, helping to create a community rain garden at the

Chameleon Arts facility in Kansas City, Missouri. “I like to work in the garden, digging in the dirt, so I especially enjoyed the chance to share the Chameleon project with my daughter.”

The best experience for Sherry to date was a parent overnight at Northwest Missouri State University last summer, as part of the “Challenge You” program. “It was great for the Scholars to stay the full week, and see what it would be like to go to classes on a college campus. It was also a wonderful opportunity for parents to stay on the campus overnight, and get a feeling for what our children are experiencing,” said Sherry.

What’s the biggest challenge for Sherry about Kauffman Scholars? “The biggest challenge is the amount of time involved in the enrichment programs,” she said. “I’m very active in supporting my youngest son’s sports activities too – he plays basketball, baseball and football – so sometimes it’s hard to plan for everyone’s schedules. But, I really love the Kauffman Scholars program, and the mission they have for our young people. I’m very grateful for it.”

Bill Cosby Brings A Strong Message to the Community and to Kansas City

Ms. Alesia Robinson, Class 2 Parent, mother of Mariah and Miah Robinson, Ms. LaTonya Mebane, Class 1 Parent, mother of Kevon Mebane and Ms. Cecilia Peterson, Class 2 Parent, mother of Jennifer Pegues, attended the “Call Out” program sponsored by the Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley when entertainer Bill Cosby brought his national “Call Out” program to Kansas City. Dr. Cosby is going state to state to spread his message about the importance

of parents participating in the lives of their youth. Dr. Cosby discussed “Old School” parenting styles and the reasons why today’s parents need to get involved in their children’s lives as well as in their educational future. Dr. Cosby charged the audience with supporting healthier eating habits, lifestyles and going back to the way “it used to be”.

He also discussed why we as a community need to foster “love and

concern” for our children. The program included several panelists from the community who told survival stories that brought tears and laughter to the audience of over eight hundred people. Parents who attended the event and had children in the program thought the message hit home when dealing with their own students. Everyone thought it was great and full of wonderful examples of how we as a community should support one another.

What can you do to prepare your Scholar academically for college?

Take The Standardized Tests That Many Colleges Require

Many of the courses recommended for college-bound students (such as geometry and rigorous English courses) are also essential preparation

for the college entrance examinations -- the **SAT** (Scholastic Assessment Test) [Footnote: The general SAT test is also referred to as the SAT I to distinguish it from the SAT subject test, which is also called the SAT II.] or the **ACT Assessment**. The SAT measures verbal and mathematical reasoning abilities. The ACT Assessment measures English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning abilities.

Students applying to colleges in the East and West usually take the SAT exam. Students applying to schools in the South and Midwest often take the ACT; however, students should check the admission requirements at each school to which they are applying. Source: U.S. Department of Education

-- *Preparing Your Child For College: 2000 Edition*

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