



**KAUFFMAN
SCHOLARS, INC.**

Parent pulse

Parents **U**niting **L**ong-term for **S**cholar **E**xcellence

Upcoming

Please mark your calendars:

Training

**Admissions for Class 3
Orientation Sessions**
July 22 and July 24

Induction Ceremony
August 19, 2006

Parent Workshops
Fall Schedule to Begin
September, 2006

Upcoming Scholar Activities and Events

**Summer Enrichment
Academies**
Missouri & Kansas
June, July, August

College Residentials
Missouri & Kansas
June, July, August

Induction of Class 3
August, 2006

Importance of College Education

Getting a college education is far more important today than it was ever before. Fifty years ago, a college education was primarily for the elite. The average person could do well in life even without going to college. The value of higher education increased with changes in technology and the global marketplace.

To understand the importance of a college education, remember the example of sprinters in a race. Once you are ahead, it is a lot easier to stay ahead. Those who are behind have to run twice as hard just to catch up, and then it becomes even harder to win! I'm sure you've heard this question from your Scholars time and time again, "Why do I have to go to college?" and your answer time and time again has been, "Because I said so." Why not have answers ready in terms they can understand and relate to? Here are some short answers:

- A college education will help you get a better job and then help you keep it.
- College graduates earn more money. Even a two-year degree makes a difference in income.

- College gives you a good start in life. General knowledge makes you a more interesting person.

Source: U.S. Department of Education.

In preparing for college, courses in geometry and algebra are key. According

The following are examples of jobs your Scholar can get with a two-year, four-year, and postgraduate degree:

Two-Year Degree:	Four-Year Degree:	Postgraduate Degree:
Computer Technician	Computer Systems Analyst	Scientist
Registered Nurse	Pharmacist	Doctor
Commercial Artist	Graphic Designer	Architect
Auto Mechanic	FBI Agent	Lawyer
Surveyor	Engineer	Zoologist

to statistics from the U.S. Department of Education, 71 percent of low-income students who took geometry in middle school went to college. Getting a solid grounding in math allows the student to take physics, trigonometry, and other Advanced Placement courses in high school.

Make sure your student is taking and working hard to pass math, English, science, and history. Consider computer science classes, and don't neglect the arts. Middle school is the perfect opportunity to plan for the next six years and beyond.



Greetings,

The days of summer are rapidly drawing to a close, and the new school year is on the horizon. As parents, how can you best prepare to be a positive resource for your Kauffman Scholar in the new academic year?

Parents, you can be one of the best advocates for greater educational opportunities for your students, and Kauffman Scholars, Inc. is your partner in becoming strong supporters of a better education for your children. Why is this so important? Statistics today paint a bleak picture of the number of urban students - especially those not at the top of their class - who get a real opportunity to attend college. Only 26 percent of all students attending colleges and universities come from low-income families. And, of those students, only six percent earn their undergraduate degrees.

One of the most pervasive problems in urban education is the problem of gaps. There is a gap between the standard of academic rigor in coursework available to urban students and the more rigorous coursework often available to students outside the urban core. As Kauffman Scholars, your students are now involved in a program that is dedicated to assisting them in the realization of the goal of becoming college graduates. However, as you know, our students continue to need your help to be fully prepared to successfully make the leap from high school to college graduate. The partnership between parents and Kauffman Scholars is critical to their success.

As parents, know your rights. You have the right – and some would say the obligation – to keep track of your Scholar’s progress in school. If your son or daughter voices concern about his or her ability to keep up, or conversely, about coursework that is not challenging, you have the option to set up a meeting with their teachers and learn more about what is being presented in the classroom. It’s a good idea to talk regularly with your students about what they are studying and to take a look at the books they are bringing home. Also, whenever you are invited to a parent/teacher conference or have the opportunity to join a parent advocacy group at your child’s school, I encourage you to take it. Invite your Scholar’s Academic and Life Coach to attend with you! It is likely to be one of the best investments of time you will ever make.

Helen Keller once said, “I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.” As the new school year begins, let each of us pledge to work together to do all we can to create a brighter future for our young people.

Best regards,



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

Assisting Your Scholar Through Career Choices

Take the Parent Career Checklist Test and see how well you’re doing.



Parent Career Checklist

Parents and family members are an important part of a student’s career exploration process. Following are helpful questions to consider as you assist your student with his/her career choices.

Do I encourage the exploration of new ideas, experiences, and occupations without being pushy?

Do I really listen to what my student tells me?

Am I willing to tolerate ideas and values that are different from my own?

Am I willing to discuss my own career development history?

Am I positive and supportive when my student makes poor decisions or fails?

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What is the KSI College Residential Institute Program?

The College Residential Institute Program was designed to provide Kauffman Scholars with real-life exposure to a college campus environment. Scholars will live on University campuses for three days or one week, depending on the school grade of the Scholar. The following is what Scholars do while attending the CRI program:

▲ In teams consisting of up to four members, Scholars participate in academic classes, tutoring, and enrichment/recreation classes.

▲ During the evening, the Scholars participate in a variety of programs that include social, personal enrichment, and recreational activities.

Goals of CRI:

1. To assess and document participants' educational needs and potential for post-secondary education.
2. To provide academic and career guidance and counseling to program participants.
3. To prepare and motivate Scholars for the admission process to post-secondary institutions.
4. To provide academic skills and motivation that will enable Scholars to gain a desire to do well in high school and aspire to go to college.
5. To provide overall exposure to and awareness of college.



Participating colleges for this summer have been:

Northwest Missouri State University

University of Missouri - Columbia

Central Missouri State University

University of Arkansas

Kansas State University

University of Missouri - Kansas City

Missouri State University

Additional information will be shared about upcoming CRI programs. Stay tuned!

College Prep Timeline



Use the timeline below as your guide to prepare for college.

In 7th & 8th Grade:

- Begin thinking about the high school classes that will prepare your Scholar for college. Try to convince them to take the most difficult classes they can handle.
- Ask your Scholar's teachers to help you develop a good study habit plan for your Scholar.
- Help your Scholar practice setting goals.
- Encourage your child to volunteer in your community.
- Have your Scholar take interest and skills assessments to help him or her begin thinking about possible career options.
- Have your Scholar talk with a guidance counselor and teachers about careers that interest them.
- Help them create a tentative high school class plan.
- Make sure your Scholar attends the summer enrichment program.

In 9th & 10th Grade:

- Have your Scholar take interest and skills assessments to help them explore careers that interest them and match their skills and abilities.
- Talk to their guidance counselor about career options and the education required for those careers.
- Talk with your Scholars about saving money and paying for college.
- Talk with friends, teachers, counselors, and family members about college.
- Have your Scholar take the PLAN in tenth grade to prepare for the ACT and to identify areas where improvement is needed.
- Encourage them to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Review their high school class plan. Have them take the most difficult classes they can handle. Make sure they are staying focused on their schoolwork.
- Explore internships and apprenticeships.
- Enroll your Scholar in a summer enrichment program.

Parent Career Checklist, continued

___ Do I encourage my student to explore occupations of interest and refer him/her to appropriate resources?

___ Do I help my student objectively look at his/her strengths and weaknesses and suggest how they might relate to various careers?

___ Am I willing to refer my student to friends/acquaintances who might discuss their occupations with him/her?

___ Do I ask questions that will encourage my student to further his/her career information gathering process?

___ Do I compliment my student on his/her strengths and accomplishments?

*Information provided by Center for Career Development

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