

# Scholar's Voice

## A Pledge to Myself

(inspired by work of the same name, written by Mychal Wynn and recited at the KSI Induction, 2005)

1. I pledge to be myself and to do my best and not to be like anyone else  
  
I pledge to not make mistakes that I have done in the past and not to give up on anything I have started  
  
I pledge to learn something new each and every day  
  
I pledge to reach and fulfill each and every goal  
  
I pledge to follow the Most High God and do what's right  
  
I pledge to be myself and no one else

-Kristine Luna, Central Middle School, MO

2. A pledge to myself-  
Never, ever let anyone stand in my way.  
Keep trying and never quit, always be brave.  
If I fail, I will get up and succeed to be whatever I want, the best possible me, or my dreams shall be.  
I pledge to never give in to drama.  
If someone tries to, I will tell my mama.  
I've had similar problems, that I shall call drama, but I don't worry because I'll tell my mama.  
After all, today I pledge to believe in me.

-Ebony Freeman, University Academy

## This Month's Birthday Shout Goes To:

### Class 1

1/4	Darren Knox	1/18	Keonna Williams
1/4	Ben May	1/19	Donnell Collins
1/6	Aspin Fields	1/21	Alberto Diaz
1/6	Nikko Harris	1/21	Shakeila Webb
1/10	Noah Kent	1/25	Brandon Fisk
1/12	Sherrell Harvey	1/26	Carlos Coronado
1/13	Rachel Barbee	1/27	Marco Reyna
1/13	Brandon Union	1/28	Rebecca Watts
1/14	Clayton Abner	1/29	Melissa Jaramillo
1/16	Charles Smith	1/29	Ronald Steward

### Class 2

1/1	DeVaughn Williams	1/17	Starla Potter
1/5	Kearea Flowers	1/21	Rebecca Garcia
1/8	Ruben Cruz	1/22	Keyana Branch
1/11	Tierney Woods	1/29	Robert Hill
1/14	Ana Hernandez	1/29	Kaylee Sublett

# SCHOLAR Connection

January 2006

## Scholars Events

**Kauffman Scholars Talent Show**  
TBA

**College for a Day – KS**  
March 13

**College for a Day – MO**  
April 10

**Parent/Scholar Conference**  
TBA

## College Tip:

### Communication

Make sure you communicate with your instructor if you have any concerns regarding your performance in his/her class ahead of time. This will allow the instructor to work with you by offering solutions or at the very least be aware of your concerns.

## Girls L.I.F.E. 2006

We did it again! The girls Lock In For Excellence (L.I.F.E.) was full of excitement, fun, and energy as we celebrated being young women. On December 17-18 Class 2 Scholars met in Pierson Auditorium at the UMKC campus from 8:00pm to 8:00am the next day. Scholars stayed up all night and participated in additional life skills critical to their growth as positive young women. This year's L.I.F.E. provided safe, interactive, and fun activities as well as workshops on bullying, drugs, alcohol, etiquette, health, fitness, sex, and relationships.



Scholars attended Girls L.I.F.E. 2006. Pictured above are: Aundra Reynolds, Jessica Walker, Danielle Williams, Antonia Martin

The luau theme set the tone for the evening. The young women were greeted with leis and took their chances to see how "low" they can go limbo contest. The limbo contest was lead by four Kauffman Scholars Coaches, Ms. Perez, Ms. Ray, Ms Robinson, and Ms. Rowh, while wearing the appropriate luau attire. The contest winner of the limbo contest was our

very own Jessica Walker, Kansas City, KS Scholar, Coronado Middle School. The young women were also treated to a talent show where they received very

memorable encore performances from Ms. Flowers, Ms. Ray, and Mrs. Perez. The winner of the talent show was Renita Johnson, who chose dance as her talent. Ms. Johnson is a KCK Scholar from Eisenhower Middle School.



**KAUFFMAN**  
SCHOLARS, INC.

4801 Rockhill Road Kansas City, MO 64110-6789



## A Message From the President

Dear Scholars,

Now that we have gone through the holiday season, it is important that we continue to be mindful of those who are less fortunate. The holiday season is an opportunity to recommit ourselves to lending assistance to others. As we do, we should never underestimate the impact of the gift of giving. The little things we do can make a big difference in someone's life.

One of the most moving experiences for one of my son's occurred when we decided to have him go with us to serve dinners to the homeless on Christmas Day. We awoke very early that morning and drove to a church in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The church where we served families was right across the street from the Taj Mahal, an extravagant and opulent hotel/casino. Upon our arrival, our son was immediately struck by the irony this scene. As we arrived at the church, we heard the powerful voice of a small grandmotherly woman command us to roll up our sleeves and jump in. "Glad you're here. Let's get going. We have a lot to do before our families start arriving." Sterling and I were assigned to the desserts. My wife Kim was directed to work on the hams and turkeys.

Greeting and serving the families had a profound impact on Sterling. He realized that by giving a little, he received a great deal in return. In addition to volunteering to serve at a homeless shelter, here are some other ways to give your time and talent to others:

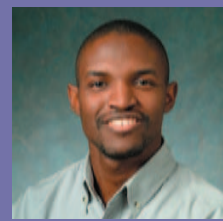
- 1) Go with your parents to visit a nursing home and offer to read stories to the elderly
- 2) Ask the leader of your place of your church or place of worship to help with his or her visits to those who are sick and shut in.
- 3) Create or join a group of carolers and sing songs to those in the neighborhood
- 4) Volunteer to lend assistance a student in your school who has a disability
- 5) Offer to help gift wrap in a "toys-for-tots" or "coats-for-kids" drive
- 6) Participate in a food drive campaign in your school, church, or community-based organization.

As Maya Angelou once stated, "I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver".

Let's continue the spirit of helping others throughout the year. This is a major part of the vision that Mr. Kauffman had for the Foundation and is a major part of our vision for the Kauffman Scholars.

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

## Coachs' Corner



Landon Mickens  
Life Coach

**"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."** —Thomas Edison

Many people think of opportunities the same way they think of winning the lottery. A wonderful prize will fall into their laps with little to no effort. To them, opportunity is the equivalent of luck. I am here to tell you that it is not. The truth is that opportunity is only useful if you are prepared for it. Those who are prepared will always seem to be lucky. Those who are not prepared will believe that they never had

enough opportunities. The true value of your scholarship is determined by the work you put into it. Will yours be priceless, or will it be worthless?

I challenge each and every Kauffman Scholar to spend one week working harder than you ever have in your life. From homework to chores, give your best on everything you do. It will change your life. I guarantee it. Good luck.

## Class 2 Academic Enrichment Academy

### Kansas and Missouri

Welcome back Scholars! We hope during your break you took some time to reflect on what you have learned as a Kauffman Scholar and how you can take what you've learned and apply it to your everyday life. As we begin this semester we all must remember to stay focused, set and work toward your goals, communicate your expectations, and expect to succeed!

*"The finest gift you can give anyone is encouragement. Yet, almost no one gets the encouragement they need to grow to their full potential. If everyone received the encouragement they need to grow, the genius in most everyone would blossom and the world would produce abundance beyond the wildest dreams. We would have more than one Einstein, Edison, Schweitzer, Mother Theresa, Dr. Salk and other great minds in a century."* ~Sidney Madwed

## Being a Kauffman Scholar

by Tiffiny Jones, Class 1  
Lincoln High School

Being a Kauffman scholar can be fun, but also can be not so fun. You have people that care about you and friends that will last a lifetime. My favorite part about

rooms but still have to be to bed by a certain time. The Saturday academy is not so fun but does benefit us. This is my third year in Kauffman and it has been a



lot worst. Overall Kauffman is doing a lot for me, and so far it has been great. After knowing people for such a long time, you get comfortable around them. The staff is very supportive and always care. They often tell me if I want it, show it. Let them know you are here to make a difference. The things you do and the way you

being a scholar is the trips when we get to go to the colleges because we get to stay there for a week and feel the real college life. We get to stay in the dorm

present yourself will reflect on how you will turn out. Bring out the positive in yourself and it will take you places you have never been before.



There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

### Word of the Month

#### Aplomb

(uh-PLOM), noun:  
Assurance of manner or of action; self-possession; confidence; coolness.

## SAT Question

November Answer: D

The following sentence contains either a single error or no error at all. If the sentence contains an error, select the one underlined part that must be changed to make the sentence correct. If the sentence contains no error, select choice E.

In the interior of the Arctic islands during the melting season, even small streams must be crossed

with great care because  
A B  
near-zero water temperatures and the typically rocky and unstable  
C  
nature of stream beds. No error  
D E

- A. (A)
- B. (B)
- C. (C)
- D. (D)
- E. (E)

## Resources

www.ysa.org  
www.youthcommunityservice.org