Invest in Yourself
By Chris

A 2002 census survey showed that someone with a bachelor’s degree earns nearly $900,000 more over his or her working lifetime (ages 25 to 65) than a high school graduate. While most college students do not look at their education as an investment, maybe you should. The average cost to complete a bachelor’s degree in Kansas City is about $30,000 depending on where you go to college (with the help of financial aid, that cost can be considerably less). So let’s compare the payoff with the initial investment. For a student graduating from college and entering the job market at the age of 25, on average, they can expect to make $22,500 more per year than if they only had a high school diploma.

$900,000 ÷ 40 working years = $22,500

The higher salary earned pays for the cost of college within a few years. But, what about those non-traditional students who may not graduate college until they are age 45? The average still comes out the same assuming retirement is reached at age 65.

$450,000 ÷ 20 working years = $22,500 more per year

With this in mind, can you afford not to graduate from college?

Project Success Recognizes Participants

Perseverance, dedication, and consistency are some of the main ingredients that lead to achievement. Well, in Project Success, they also lead to recognition. During FA06 semester, Project Success held several Success Series Workshops in order to help promote personal growth and development for our students. Following are the names of students who received acknowledgment for making time, aside from their busy school and work schedules, to attend those workshops and/or their math tutoring appointments. All of the students received a $10 Applebee’s Gift Certificate, compliments of Toni Alexander and the Project Success Program.

Attended all workshops and/or math tutoring appointments

Nicki Pinault
Joseph McGrew
Ryan Walstrom
Gwendoline Dublin
Ashaunta Dorch
Marvin Gines
Fern Payne
Jill Street

Only missed 1 workshop and/or math tutoring appointment

Don Adams
Shirley Graham
Biftu Ali
Latisha Kelly
Claudia Hamilton

“Winners compare their achievements with their goals, while losers compare their achievements with those of other people.”

Nido Qubein
February, March, April, and May

Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 21</td>
<td>Convocation Day, no classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 27 &amp; 28</td>
<td>Budgeting Workshop, 12:00-1:00pm, CC217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 9</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 11</td>
<td>Daylight Savings Time begins (Spring forward)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 12-17</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17</td>
<td>Saint Patrick’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 19</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 27 &amp; 28</td>
<td>Serving &amp; Investing Workshop, 12:00-2:00pm, CC217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 16</td>
<td>Last Day to withdraw without assessment— <strong>Please see Kathy Courtney or Toni Alexander before withdrawing</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Quadratic Equations Workshop with Math Learning Specialist (Chris Hacker), 12:00-1:00pm, CC217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Last Day of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As for the future, your task is not to foresee it, but to enable it.

“The Wisdom of the Sands”

Great News

Tabitha Newman, one of 24 semifinalists, was recently chosen to participate in the summer internship program with Coro Kansas City. She and eleven others are going to participate in a rigorous, highly compact, and intensive program. Coro Kansas City is an organization which trains and empowers community leaders by connecting with a large number of Kansas City businesses which open their doors to Coro interns for one week within a ten-week timeframe. Connecting with ten different businesses over ten weeks offers a large resource of experience and insight to the interns which is otherwise not possible under the internship programs.

**Congratulations, Tabitha!**

Mark your calendars!

February 24, 2007 is National TRiO Day, which is a day of celebration for the positive impact that federal TRiO programs have on our communities throughout the nation. Programs, such as Project Success, take the time to reflect the accessibility of higher education for disadvantaged (first generation, low income, and disabled) students. These students are offered the academic support that it takes to earn a degree.

Because National TRiO Day falls on the last Saturday of the February, Project Success will hold it’s annual TRiO Day celebration on Monday, Feb. 26, 2007 from 12:00 — 2:00pm. Festivities will include a TRiO Day Carnival, full of fun, games, and refreshments. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend.

Please join us (Project Success) in the Student Development Center, CC223, on Feb. 26 to commemorate this great day!

“In many communities throughout America, the TRiO programs are the only programs that help low-income Americans to enter college, graduate and move on to participate more fully in America’s economic and social life.”

—Dr Arnold Mitchem, President for the Council for Opportunity in Education
Happy Belated Birthday to:

2-4  Ebonie Sherrils
2-5  Tracye Bagby
2-7  RaMon Hinson
2-8  Belinda Langford
2-10  Raashid Brown
2-11  Laura Naegele
2-12  Dionne Holt
2-12  Mical Asmeron
2-12  LaTanya Williams
2-13  Esther Vivian

Belated Birthday Wishes

By the time we realized your birthday,
You’d celebrated and it was too late;
We intended to send special greetings,
But got busy and overlooked the date.
However, by the time you read this message,
Our wishes will still be sincere;
Hope you had a wonderful birthday,
And we will be on time next year!
Happy belated Birthday!

Author - Fern Payne

Up and Coming Birthdays:

2-27  Joanne Banks
2-28  Alexander Montanez
3-2  Bernadine Pickering
3-4  Willishia Mitchell
3-5  Ryan Walstrom
3-7  Charles Logan
3-7  Makisha Thomas
3-11  Alice Coody
3-11  Cynthea Thompson
3-11  Mary Walker
3-14  Melissa Bobo
3-16  Johnny Wooten III
3-17  Tiffanie Foster
3-19  Josefina Juarez
3-24  Marian Higgins
3-24  Dorothy Holloway
3-25  Wilma President
3-26  Ryan Kaiser
3-31  Adrian Sanders

Happy Birthday!

It’s that special time of year again,
The proper word to describe you is ‘shrewd’;
And I’d like to pass on words of wisdom,
That could be indicative of a great mood;
“Thank God for the years you’ve been granted,
Implement faith in Him for the years straight ahead;
Count your blessings for all His protection,
Read His Word so that your spirit can be fed.”
Have a Happy Birthday!

Author - Fern Payne

*Note— If you have a special event (or good news) that you would like us to recognize, please let us know. The Project Success Newsletter will be issued twice each semester and once in the summer. We would love to share your great news with everyone!

*Updates— We would like to start corresponding with you by email, however, several of you have not submitted correct email and/or home addresses. If you are not receiving any type of mail/messages from Project Success, please stop by to make sure that we have your accurate demographic information on file.
Just a few excerpts from an interesting article:
While all the attention swirling around Oprah Winfrey's new $40 million Leadership Academy in South Africa last week focused on what inner city America might have missed out on, some may have missed out on the bigger picture.

After the media mogul and philanthropist unveiled the school, controversy and questions erupted almost immediately. News pundits, politicians and other critics wanted to know why Winfrey lent such assistance to Africa and not to needy inner city schools here at home. They also chastised Winfrey for spending lavishly on appointing the 22-acre campus with marble flooring, outdoor and indoor theaters, a beauty salon and a yoga studio.

Winfrey fired back that she chose to share this particular gift with African children rather than inner city American children because she believed those in Africa valued education more. She added that she intentionally spared no expense in constructing the 28-building campus so as to bring out the beauty within the girls attending the school.

But what Winfrey's comments further demonstrate is class warfare taking place within the Black community, says Dr. Shawn Ginwright, an associate professor of Africana studies at San Francisco State University. "It's a silent war that nobody wants to talk about…"

Winfrey said she became so frustrated with visiting inner city schools that she just stopped going. "The sense that you need to learn just isn't there. If you ask the kids what they want or need, they will say an iPod or some sneakers," she said in *Newsweek*. "In South Africa, they don't ask for money or toys. They ask for uniforms so that they can go to school."

Ginwright says Winfrey's comments represent a trend in thinking that African-American students' performance in school is solely their responsibility. "Her comments represent a very naïve, limited, static and restrictive understanding of the real circumstances and challenges faced by the Black poor," he says. "It's an endorsement of a system that has worked for the Black middle class. But the fact is there are millions of Blacks in chocolate cities that have not made it and the system continues to ban them and keep them from making it."

To be fair, Winfrey has contributed millions of dollars towards providing a better education for underserved U.S. students. But the bottom line is, it's her money, she can spend it any way and any where she wants. So the arguments broadcast on talk radio and television shows are moot.

The battle that Ginwright speaks of, however, is a discussion African-Americans have been avoiding ever since W.E.B. DuBois wrote *The Talented Tenth*. Published in 1903, *The Talented Tenth* charged that a small group of college-educated Blacks would bring about social change for the masses.

Winfrey said, "when you educate a girl, you change the face of a nation." If Winfrey is right, and the girls use their educational gift to alleviate the poverty of their country as opposed to just getting good jobs, raising families and concerning themselves with accumulating individual success, then indeed we can call Winfrey's school a success.

In the United States, however, DuBois' philosophy, is often misapplied in that too many successful African-Americans focus on accumulating their own capital and forget about the ones they left behind. To be sure, Winfrey is not counted among this group.