COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS & HBCU WEBINAR

For Stafford County High School Students and Parents In conjunction with the Office of Equity and Accountability

Date: Monday, March 28, 2022 Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Register at: https://scpscollegeadmissions2022.eventbrite.com



Featuring College Expert & Author Dr. Christie Murray

Get Top Strategies On:

- Developing a college plan
- Choosing a college major
- Researching and selecting colleges
- Taking the SAT and ACT
- Writing compelling essays
- Applying to colleges





Give-a-ways provided by:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Psi Psi Omega Chapter



Welcome



- Stafford County Public School Students and Families!
- Thank you for joining the College Admissions and HBCU webinar.
- This webinar will be recorded for future use.

Webinar Objectives

The main objectives of the webinar are to:

- Equip students with practical strategies to navigate the college admission process.
- Share important facts about HBCUs.
- Discuss relevant information as a result of COVID-19.



Let's Make this an Interactive Discussion! Use the chat function to post comments or questions. **Sponsored By:** Stafford County High School Office of Equity and Accountability



In conjunction with the

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.[®] Psi Psi Omega Chapter Serving Stafford and Fauquier Counties Charted June 14, 2014 President: Greta Thompson Target I Program Initiatives



Assist high school juniors and seniors through the College Admissions Process (#CAPSM)



Promote HBCUs and share factual information

Providing student give-a-ways



Speaker Dr. Christie Murray



Author, Chief Operating Officer Invest N Others LLC <u>www.investNothers.com</u> Psi Psi Omega Chapter Vice President, Program Chair Stafford and Fauquier Counties, VA



Dr. Christie Murray HBCU Graduate



"The" Standard of Excellence

A Priceless Foundation

- Bachelor, Electrical Engineering Degree, 1998
 - Master in Computer Information System, 2003
 - Master in Business Administration, 2009
 - Doctorate in Business Administration, 2014





Scholarships

College Planning Strategies To Get Accepted...



These College Strategies Work!!!

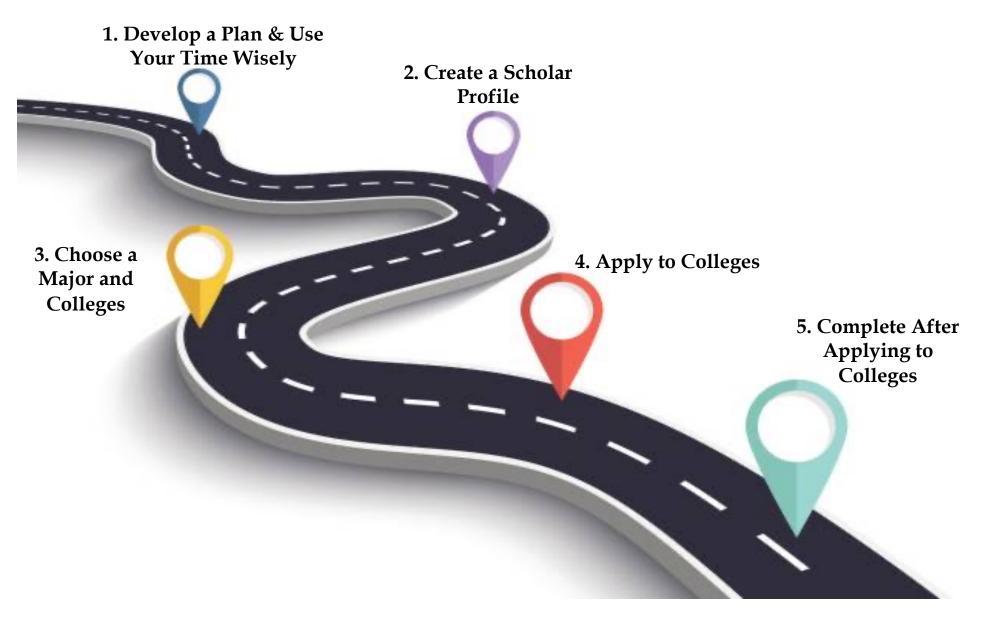


Junior Old Dominion University Mass Communications Entrepreneur, Prolific Streetwear



Freshman – Div 1 Football Player Norfolk State University Computer Science Entrepreneur, Vivid KameraSbots

College Admissions Roadmap



Assess Your Current Situation



Exercise: Where Are You Now Assessment



- 1. What is your (child/student's) current cumulative grade point average (GPA)?
- 2. True or False. Only students with a high GPAs get scholarships?
- 3. What is your School Counselor's name?
- 4. What's the process for obtaining your transcripts at your high school?
- 5. True or False. The best time to apply for college is the Spring of your Senior Year.
- 6. What are your top *three* college/university choices?
- 7. What are your top *three* college majors choices?
- 8. True or False. Most colleges and universities prefer the SAT over the ACT.
- 9. True or False. Average grades in hard classes are better than A's in easy ones.
- 10. True or False. Social media accounts and your online reputation does not matter.

College Planning (Strategy 1) - Page 7-15

© Copyright 2022 All rights reserved 1. Develop and Plan & Use Your Time Wisely

1. Develop a Plan *C.L.E.A.R. and Effective*

	College Admissions Plan (Year = X Grade)										
	My Goals	Туре	Cost	Start Date	Due Date	% Complete	Notes				
1	Develop a Scholar	Profile	N/A	Summer	Summer before	75%	Use the Scholar				
	Profile			before 10 th	10 th grade		Profile				
				grade							
2	Research colleges and	College	N/A	Summer	Summer before	25%	Use the College				
	requirements			before 10 th	10 th grade		Requirement				
				grade			Spreadsheet				
3	Meet Guidance	High	N/A	9/15/XX	9/30/XX	25%	Scheduled for				
	Counselor	School					9/20/XX				
4	Find out your current	High	N/A	9/20/XX 10/1/XX		0%					
	GPA and get a copy	School									
	of your transcript										
5	Schedule to take the	Test	\$65.00	2/01/XX	4/01/XX	0%					
	SAT and ACT										

Use Your Time Wisely Timeline (11th Grade)

- □ Verify meeting your high school graduation requirements are met
- □ Keep grades up (3.0 GPA & above) & review your high school transcript
- **Find out the transcript request process at your school**
- □ Stay involved in activities (sports, clubs, community)
- □ Narrow down college majors or fields of study
- **Research & visit colleges (programs, requirements, costs)**
- **Develop or update your Scholar Profile**
- **Take both the SAT and ACT (and prep courses)**
- **C** Research financial aid and scholarships
- □ Identify who can write letters of recommendations
- □ Athletes: Develop a Scholar-Athlete Profile & Your NCAA Certification Profile
- □ Send high school transcripts to NCAA Eligibility Center

Use Your Time Wisely Timeline (12th Grade)

- Choose a major
- □ List your colleges
- □ Visit schools
- □ Write college essays (if applicable)
- Request official transcripts
- □ Create/update your Scholar Profile
- □ Obtain letters of recommendation
- □ Apply to colleges and track results Fall
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online (send results to top 3-5 schools) Fall
- □ Search and apply for scholarships and track results
- □ Receive acceptance letters and financial aid awards
- Decide on a college, pay deposits and housing fees



2. Create A Scholar Profile?

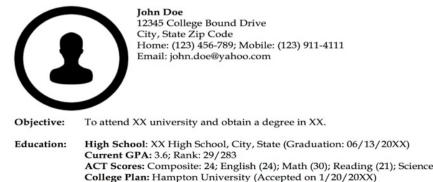
- One-page summary (tells your story)
 - Resume
 - Brag sheet
 - Self-assessment
- Tells Your story on paper!
- Highlight your:
 - Educational goals
 - Past experiences
 - Honors Accomplishments
 - ✤ Activities and leadership
 - Talents and interests



Used for...

- ✓ College applications
- ✓ Scholarship apps
- ✓ Letters of recommendations
- ✓ Essay writing

Downloadable Scholar Profile Template



ACT Scores: Composite: 24; English (24); Math (30); Reading (21); Science (20) College Plan: Hampton University (Accepted on 1/20/20XX) Enrollment Date: Fall 2018 Intended Degree/Major: Bachelor of XX in XX

Honors and Awards:

- Honor Roll, (20XX Present)
- National Honor Society Induction, 20XX
- Top Alternate Current/Direct Current Student, (20XX-20XX)

Employment Experience:

- Cashier, McDonalds, City, VA (20XX-20XX)
- Walmart Cashier, City, VA (20XX)

Student Organizations/Extracurricular Activities:

- Student Government Association Class Representative, (20XX-Present)
- National Honor Society, (20XX-Present)
- Future Business Leaders of America Member, (20XX-20XX)

Community Service Activities:

- Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Adopt a Highway Project, (20XX)
- Volunteered at Galleria Mall on Summer Family Nights, (20XX)
- Volunteered at the XX Community Center, (20XX)

Relevant Courses:

- Algebra II
- Graphics Design I
- Oceanography

Interests/Hobbies:

- Cooking
- Reading

Website: https://www.educationalexcellenceinc.com/about-us-1



College Planning - Page 46

© Copyright 2022 All rights reserved

Scholar Profile Strategies

- ✤ Assess your strengths and areas of improvement.
- Look for gaps in your scholar profile, then fill them.
- Update your scholar profile (frequently).
 - Summer break
 - ✤ Winter break
- Include the scholar profile with applications only if additional documents can be attached.

3. Choose a Major

- Narrow down and select a major before you start applying to colleges.
- Most colleges do not require students to declare a major until the end of the sophomore year.
- However, it is not recommended to wait until two years into college (sophomore year) to select a major!
- ✤ Identify your interests, values, passions, and abilities.
- ✤ Ask parents, counselors, and/or trusted advisors.
- Research careers and salaries for different majors.
- ✤ Make a list of potential majors (1-5).



Types of Schools and Colleges

- There's about 2,000 colleges in the U.S.
- Vocational/Trade schools:
 - ✤ Teaches a skill or trade for a specific job.
 - Electrician, Auto Mechanic, HVAC Technician, Plumber, Dental Hygienist, etc.
 - ✤ Most programs are about 2 years.
 - Obtain a license, certification or certificate.
- ✤ <u>Two-year college</u>:
 - ✤ Community or junior college.
 - Obtain an associate's degree.
- ✤ Four-year college:
 - Undergraduate coursework.
 - ✤ Obtain a bachelor's degree.



Public vs Private Colleges

- Public college:
 - Primarily funded by a federal/state government.
 - ✤ Generally larger than private schools.
 - ✤ In-state students pay in-state tuition.
 - Out-of-state students living out of state <u>likely pay more</u> tuition.
- Private college:
 - ✤ Often operates as an educational, non-profit organization.
 - Does not receive primary funding from the government.
 - One tuition rate (whether in-state or out-of-state).
 - ✤ Usually more costly than public schools.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Facts



- ✤ HBCUs existed for almost 200 years.
- African-Americans were unable to pursue an education at white institutions so HBCUs were created to educate African-Americans.
- ✤ There are currently 107 HBCU's in the United States.
- Against these odds, HBCUs historically have provided an affordable education to millions of students of color in many professions.

Who's Attending HBCUs?

Demographics:

- ✤ 74% African American
- ✤ 11.4% White
- ✤ 5.1% Hispanic or Latino
- ✤ 9.7% All other backgrounds



The Changing Face of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Black Enterprise

> © Copyright 2022 All rights reserved



HBCUs in the United States:

- Represent less than 3% of colleges & universities
- Enroll 12% of all African American students
- Produce 23% of all African American graduates
- Confer 40% of all African American STEM degrees

The Changing Face of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Black Enterprise



HBCUs Educate:

- ✤ 50% of African American teachers.
- ✤ 40% of African American health professionals.
- ✤ 70% of African American dentists and physicians.
- ✤ 58% of HBCUs offer students the opportunity to study abroad.

The Changing Face of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Black Enterprise

3. Choose a College

- Use an online search tool to help you research colleges:
 - https://collegescorecard.ed.gov
 - ✤ <u>www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org</u>
 - ✤ www.commonapp.org
- ✤ Take college tours (in-person and virtual tours).
- ✤ Key factors to consider with choosing a college:
 - □ Offers your chosen program or major
 - □ Cost of attendance (affordable)
 - □ Location (in state/out of state)
 - Public or private
 - □ College size (and class size)
 - □ A good fit for you
 - Graduation rate
 - Campus safety
 - □ Traditional, distance learning, or blended.

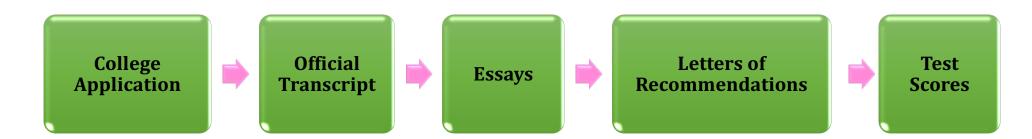
© Copyright 2022 All rights reserved

List Colleges and Requirements (Template) Recommend top 5-10 colleges

							CO	LLEGE F	REQU	IREM	IENTS SP	RE.				
	LEGE NAME	LOCATION	COLLEGE TOUR	YEARLY TUITION/ROOM & BOARD COST	APPLICATION (ONLINE OR MAIL)	APPLICATIO N FEE	EARLY ADMISSION DATE	DEADLINE TO APPLY	GPA	SAT SCORE	ACT SCORE	ES (Y	LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATIO N (Y/N)		DATE APPLICATION SUBMITTED	ACCEPT A DECISI
	ole University	City, State	Yes	\$ 36,660	Online	\$ 35	10/30/20XX	3/1/20XX	3.3	1100	22	Y, 25 W(
							PREAD	SHEET								
)OM OST	APPLICATIO (ONLINE OF MAIL)		ADMI			SAT CORE	ESSAY (Y/N)	RECOMN	ERS OF 1ENDAT (Y/N)	710	WEBSITE		DATE PLICATION UBMITTED	ACCEPTANCE DECISION	NOTES	
							Y, 250-50 words	0	(,1	WW	<u>vw.college.edu</u>	<u>1</u> 1(0/15/20XX		** SAT/ACT Scores only required if you have less than 30 credit hours ** 3.3 GPA or ranked in to 10% of class. ** Photograph	

4. Apply to Colleges

4. Apply to College College Application Parts



- Each college has its own application process.
- Different ways to apply:
 - Electronically (create an account through a web portal)
 - ✤ By mail
- College application fee:
 - ✤ Varies for each college (\$0 \$100)
 - Some students can get fees waived.

When to Apply to Colleges

- ✤ Apply during the FALL of your senior year (Sept Dec).
- ✤ Early Decision (Deadline usually November 1 15th):
 - ✤ Can only apply to one school early decision.
 - Binding agreement you will enroll in that institution, if accepted.
 - Sends the strongest message that college is your top choice.
- Early Action (Deadline usually November 1 15th):
 - ✤ Apply early to as many schools as you want.
 - ✤ Does not require you to commit to the college.
 - Enables you to compare financial aid packages among several colleges and universities before accepting or declining the offer.
- ✤ Both ED and EA decisions generally made by mid December.
- ✤ National decision day is May 1st.

College Planning (Strategy 8) - Page 77-85

The Common Application (App) www.commonapp.org

- Students can submit one college applications to about 900 colleges.
- Create an account/profile and then search colleges.
- ✤ Research and <u>apply</u> to multiple colleges through one website portal.
- ✤ New application opens on August 1st of each year.
- Reused when applying for multiple colleges on the site.
- ✤ Applicants can use the Common App for free.
- ✤ Each college may have an application fee (varying amounts).
- ✤ Roughly 45% of participating schools do not charge an application fee.



The Common Black College Application (App) www.commonblackcollegeapp.com

- Students can submit one college applications to over 60 HBCUs.
- Create an account and apply to multiple colleges for about \$20.
- Select your top HBCUs to apply.
- Upload your test scores.
- Research and apply to multiple colleges through one website.
- Reused when applying for multiple colleges on the site.



Robert Mason, Founder

Official Transcripts

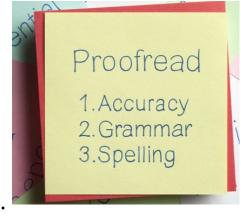
- Formal copies of a student's official high school academic grades have grades from freshman to junior year.
- ✤ Know the process to request transcripts and follow it precisely.
- ✤ Parental permission may be required prior to requesting transcripts.
- ✤ Request to have official high school transcripts for all colleges applied to.
- ✤ Most high schools will either mail or email your official transcripts to colleges.
- Double check with high school/colleges to verify receipt before the deadline.

Essays and Letters of Recommendations Two Ways



Essay Writing Guidance

- Draft essays early and prepare to revise multiple times.
- Save and re-use content for multiple applications.
- Find trusted individuals to proofread and critique your writing (i.e. teacher).
- ✤ Use free online proofreading resources (i.e. Grammarly).
- ✤ Follow directions (type, word count).
- ✤ Address the specific essay topic or question.
- ✤ Write on various topics and save them all.
- Demonstrate knowledge of college/entity (facts/statistics).
- ✤ Share how you will make a difference.



Apply to College Essay Writing Guidance

- Develop a brief outline to organize your thoughts into manageable sections.
 - Introduction (include a thesis statement)
 - Body (three main points)
 - ✤ Conclusion
- You may pick a topic or instructed to write on a particular topic.

Ten common essay topic may include:

Career/Major	Contribution					
Challenges	Creativity					
Change	Financial need					
Character	Leadership					
Community Service	Personal Statement					

For more guidance: Writing Essay Recorded Video

College Funding (Strategy 8) - Page 103-104

© Copyright 2022 All rights reserved

Letters of Recommendation

- ✤ Make a list of recommenders:
 - ✤ Teachers
 - School Counselors
 - Coaches
 - Community Leaders



- Provide a Scholar Profile with your recommendation request.
- ✤ Request multiple copies and ask for generic letters that can be reused.
- Provide recommenders with submission instructions.
- Set recommenders deadlines 1-2 weeks before your deadline.
- Follow-up to make sure letters are received by the deadline.
- Offer a pre-drafted letter of recommendation for them to tailor.

Sample Letter of Recommendation

[Month Day, Year]

То	[Scholarship Entity Selection Committee]:
I,	[First Name and Last Name], with
	[Organization], I am writing this letter to express my support for
	[Scholar First and Last Name] and[his or her] application for
the	[Name of Scholarship] [He or She] plans to
attend_	[College or University] to major in [College major].
	[He or She] demonstrated exceptional [academic achievement].
	[Scholar Name] currently has a [grade point average] at
	gh School] [He or she] pursues academic excellence and welcomes
challen	
	known [Scholar First Name], for [no. of years] (or since 20XX <u>)</u> . [He or She] [studied, worked or volunteered] with ization Name] from to [Month 20XX to Month 20XX]
- 0	r First Name] is extremely hard working and displays sound judgement
-	d for a leader [He or she] an individual who strong character and carries
-	imself or herself] in a polite, respectable, and professional manner.
	_ [He or she] impressed me with [his or her] ability to,, and [solve problems, communicate effectively, and think critically]'s [Scholar

First Name] creativity and innovative mindset exceeded my expectations. ______ [He or she] was extremely ______ [proactive], _____ [professional] and ______[results-driven].

Without reservation, I strongly recommend ______ [Scholar First Name] as a candidate for your scholarship. Please afford _____ [him or her] the opportunity to continue to excel academically in college. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: _____ [Phone Number] or _____ [email address].

Best Regards,

[Your Signature} Name Title

> © Copyright 2022 All rights reserved

SAT/ACT Tests



- Take both tests (if possible)
- Measures what students are learning in school and what they need to know to be successful in college.
- ✤ More colleges are making these test optional:
 - ✤ Essay, academics will be weighted heavier
 - ✤ May be needed for merit-based scholarships
- **ACT** has a Science Test, and one **SAT** Math Section no calculator.
- Send your SAT/ACT scores to the <u>colleges on your list</u>

Upcoming Test Dates

Registration dates and fees (may be waived)

SAT Test Dates	ACT Test Dates
 5/8/2022 6/5/2022 8/28/2022 	 4/2/2022 6/11/2022 7/16/2022

Register: <u>https://www.collegeboard.org/</u>

Register: <u>http://www.act.org/</u>

Take Both Tests...Early SAT/ACT Prep

- Plan to take the tests more than once
- Complete a SAT/ACT Prep-course (recommended)
- Re-take the SAT/ACT (immediately after prep-course)
- Download mobile apps...and practice
- ✤ Retake the test (67% improve their scores)

Prep Resource	Туре	Benefit	Cost
Kaplan	SAT/ACT	Most practice tests	\$299 and up
The Princeton	SAT/ACT	Best one-on-one	\$299 and up
Review		interaction	
Khan Academy	SAT (only)	Best <i>free</i> SAT prep	Free
ACT Prep Online	ACT	Most engaging ACT	\$40 and up
	(only)	prep (fun)	

Reviews.com: <u>http://www.reviews.com/act-sat-test-prep-courses/</u>

Application Package Checklist Follow instructions...adhere to deadlines

□ Application

- □ Transcript (official or unofficial)
- Essay(s) or personal statement(s)
- □ Letter(s) of recommendation
- □ SAT/ACT test scores
- □ Financial need documents (*if applicable*)
- □ Scholar Profile (optional)

After You've Applied to Colleges

- 1. Finish high school strong and graduate!
- 2. Review all acceptance letters (instructions & deadlines).
- 3. Complete the FAFSA for all colleges applied to.
- 4. Review & compare all financial aid award letters.
- 5. Keep applying for scholarships.
- 6. Put together a list of items you will need for college.
- 7. Choose which college you will attend.

Admitted Student Checklist Once You've Selected a College

- □ Adhere to the college's deadlines
- □ Activate Student Email or Account (optional)
- □ Submit Enrollment Deposit (optional)
- □ Submit New Student Orientation registration/fee (optional)
- □ Complete Campus Housing application/deposit
- □ Complete Health Forms
- □ Order Final Transcripts (high school/dual enrollment)
 - **Copy for you**
 - □ Send to your selected college
 - □ NCAA (for athletes)
 - □ Scholarships

Conclusion Key Takeaways

- Start early and use your time wisely (summers).
- Discuss how you (parent/guardians) will pay for college.
- ✤ Have a plan and track your progress.
- ✤ Get organized:
 - Create folders for college planning documents.
 - Save account/login information in a central place.
 - Create a separate email address for college efforts.
- ✤ Take advantage of the resources in your school and community.
- Follow through and confirm all your info received.
- Don't waste people's time!!!!
- Say thank you.

Upcoming Events (Spanish)

PROCESO DE ADMISIÓN A LA UNIVERSIDAD Y SEMINARIO WEB HBCU

(EN ESPAÑOL) Para los estudiantes de Secundaria del Condado de

En conjunto con la Oficina de Equidad y Responsabilidad

Stafford y sus padres Fecha: Martes, 29 de Marzo de 2022

Hora: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

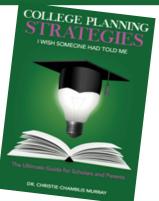
Regístrese en: https://scpscollegeadmissionsspanish2022webinar.eventbrite.com



Presentando a la Dra. Christie Murray, experta y autora de la Universidad

Obtén las mejores estrategias en:

- Desarrollar un plan universitario
- Elegir una especialización universitaria
- Investigar y seleccionar universidades
- Tomando el SAT y ACT
- Escribir ensayos convincentes
- Aplicar a las universidades



Obsequios proporcionados por : Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Psi Psi Omega Chapter

Register at: https://scpscollegeadmissionsspanish2022webinar.eventbrite.com

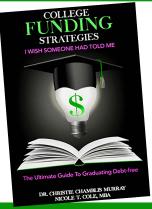
Upcoming Events

COLLEGE FUNDING & SCHOLARSHIP WEBINAR

For Stafford County High School Students and Parents In conjunction with the Office of Equity and Accountability

> Date: Monday, April 4, 2022 Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Register at: <u>https://scpscollegefunding2022webinar.eventbrite.com</u>



Learn How to Graduate Debt-free By:

- Developing a college funding plan
- Understanding the cost of college
- Paying for college
- Applying for financial aid
- Searching and applying for scholarships



Featuring College Expert & Author Dr. Christie Murray

Give-a-ways provided by: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Psi Psi Omega Chapter

Register at: <u>https://scpscollegefunding2022webinar.eventbrite.com</u>

Upcoming Events (Spanish)



Register at: <u>https://scpscollegefundingspanish2022webinar.eventbrite.com</u>

Upcoming Events

Register at: <u>https://www.investnothers.com/webinar-material</u>

(April)	(May)
SAT Prep Strategies	ACT Prep Strategies
Sunday, April 24, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET)	Sunday, May 22, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET)
(For High School Students)	(For High School Students)
(June)	(July)
HBCU and PWI Colleges Official Panel Discussion	Essay Writing and Letters of <u>Recommendation</u>
Sunday, June 5, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET)	Sunday, July 31, 2022 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm (ET)
(For High School Students & Parents)	(For High School Students & Parents)

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® Psi Psi Omega Chapter (Stafford & Fauquier Counties) http://www.staffordaka.com/scholarships.html

- Encouraged to apply for our scholarships
- Students who attend school or reside in Stafford or Fauquier Counties

Types of Scholarships:

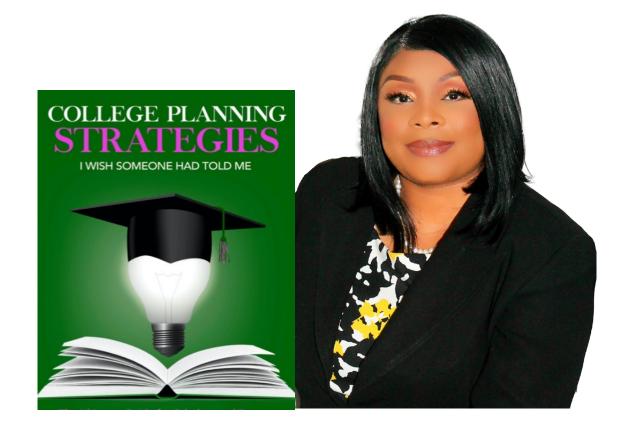
- Service Leadership
- ThinkHBCU
- Vocational/Community College
- Continuing College Student
- The Arts!



Give-a-ways (3) Sponsored by the Psi Psi Omega Chapter

College <u>Planning</u> Strategies I Wish Someone Had Told Me By: Dr. Christie Murray

Unmute Name, Grade, and High School



Join My Exclusive Group "Scholarships for Scholars"





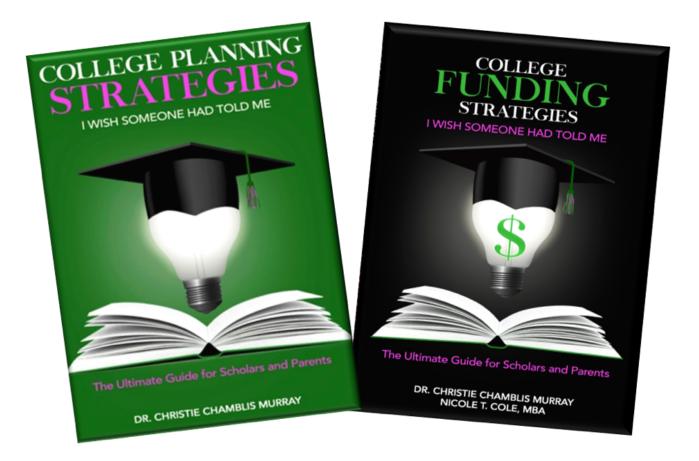


Follow me on Social Media Invest N Others LLC



www.investNothers.com

Reference Materials



Books and Workbook Templates Available at: www.investNothers.com

Past AKA Collaboration Webinar Recordings and Videos



- Top Strategies for Taking the SAT/ACT: <u>https://youtu.be/U2x9hIJngao</u>
- Writing Essays & Letters of Recommendation: <u>https://youtu.be/KlJ9SvbMVyo</u>
- General College Information & HBCUs: <u>https://youtu.be/EzR-Vk9pRKI</u>
- College Planning Made Easy: <u>https://youtu.be/RTfeZNL-BvA</u>
- College Funding and Financial Literacy: <u>https://youtu.be/FFavH7H5m88</u>
- College Admissions Panel: <u>https://youtu.be/-VWJZw6eBVU</u>
- Essay Writing and Letters of Recommendation: <u>https://youtu.be/UvWmgmbYWMs</u>
- SAT Prep Webinar: <u>https://youtu.be/u-Y2L58YZ50</u>
- ACT Prep Webinar: <u>https://youtu.be/hllxrEqU0gw</u>

Questions (Unmute Your Lines or Use the Chat)



www.investNothers.com