

AKEF

FOUNDATION



Helping Students Achieve Their Dreams

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Our Annual Board Meeting is coming up this summer! During this time, we are reimagining our focus and planning the year so that we can provide our scholarship recipients with more opportunities than ever before.

Help us achieve our dreams by donating to our scholarship fund. Your donation will make a difference in the lives of students receiving a college education or learning a vocational trade.

Please mail all donations to:

P.O. Box 232 Orangeburg, SC
29115



WELCOME TO AKEF'S NEW NEWSLETTER!

We have updated our newsletter format to provide you with easier to find information about the Foundation and engaging stories from our scholarship recipients, Board members, college students, and individuals involved in the college process.

New feature: Articles from our viewers!

Q: How can I submit an article to be featured in the newsletter?

A: To have your article featured in an upcoming newsletter, simply submit your draft to akeffoundation@gmail.com. Make sure the article is roughly 250 words or less!

Q: How do I know if I can write an article for the newsletter?

A: You can submit an article if you are a current or previous scholarship recipient, a member of our Board, a donor (at any level), an applicant, or are involved in the college process (think parents, professors, guidance counselors, etc.).

"Helping Students Achieve Their Dreams."

HELP US OUT ON AMAZONSMILE!

Since AKEF is a registered non-profit, your online shopping can provide us with a financial donation! AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to AKEF. To participate, simply sign up for [AmazonSmile](#) with your Amazon.com account, search for and select AKEF as your chosen non-profit, and shop! To find out if your items are eligible, look at the item details in the item description.

TRANSITIONS

During this time of year, I think about all the young people who are transitioning from being high school graduates to starting their post-secondary studies. This makes me think about those many years ago when I graduated from high school and made the decision to go to college. My rationale for selecting this college was made in the same reckless, uninformed manner that I made most of the decisions in my life. Although I may have been thinking about going to college, I did not start actively planning until my senior year in college. Even if this is what you did, there are still some things that you can do in these weeks before you transition to college to increase your chances at success.

First, congratulations on making the decisions to pursue post-secondary education! This is a very exciting time in your life. Use the next couple of weeks to read all that you can about the institution you will be attending. The information that the institution sends you is full of helpful information. Take the time to read the information and ask questions. If you have questions email or call the office that sent you the information. These professionals are waiting to assist you.

One of the most important aspects of the collegiate experience are the relationships that you will form with peers and professionals. College is about discussing issues with individuals who are also interested in developing new ideas. Additionally, you will do things that you would normally not do. Therefore, engagement in the collegiate experience is about meeting new individuals that you will likely remain in contact with throughout the four to five years that you are involved in your studies.



If you will be staying in a residence hall, reach out to your prospective roommate and introduce yourself. You can discuss some of the items that you may be bringing so that you don't over crowd very small residence hall rooms. For instance, you may want to share a microfridge instead of bringing two. This is also a great way of working on your communication skills.

If you really want to stand out from the rest of the freshman class look online and select a professor who will be teaching one of the freshman courses and email them. Ask them a question about their course. Or email one of the staff members from the Tutoring Center to ask them about the services they offer. This simple gesture is so easy and will make you stand out in the minds of people on campus. Whether you are attending a large state supported institution or a small private institution, you want to take advantage of all the resources that the institution offers. These are just a few strategies that you can do during these weeks to set yourself up for success as you engage in one of many transitions in your life.

This article was submitted by Tina Marshall-Bradley, Ph.D.

Scholarship Recipient Spotlight

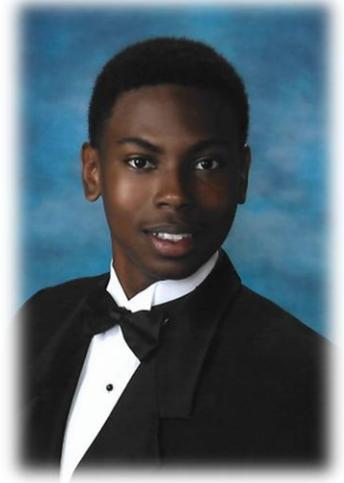
Asha Jalini Simpson, AKEF Scholar

Asha Jalini Simpson will be pursuing a degree in Exercise Science during the 2017-2018 academic year. She is the recipient of the Senior Athlete award during her last year in high school with the Highest GPA in 2017, the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, and was a volunteer at the Mabry Cancer Center at The Regional Medical Center in Orangeburg, SC. She will attend Jacksonville University with a major in Physical Therapy. Ultimately, she wants to open her own physical therapy practice and work with professional athletes to help them recover from their injuries.



Tillmon Milton Ancrum, II, Orangeburg-Wilkinson Class of 1979 Scholar

Tillmon Milton Ancrum, II will be a college freshman during the 2017-2018



school year. He plans to attend Coastal Carolina University where he will major in Marine Science and minor in Graphic Design. He has been accepted into the Alpha Alpha Delta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. He graduated in the top of his high school class and in 2016 he participated in Palmetto Boy's State. In the future, he plans to pursue graduate degrees in Marine Ecology to help research and find ways to clean up polluted areas of coastal waters. He plans to work for and with governmental agencies like National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration in the future.

WE OFFER OUR GREATEST CONGRADULATIONS TO THESE 2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

CHASING MY DREAMS

While in my undergraduate program, I realized what I wanted my career to be: marriage and family therapy. This career decision meant that I needed to go to graduate school. I spent a lot of time my last semester talking with different professionals and students at different levels of education, licensure, and experience, and I had a plan of what I wanted to do, the few places I wanted to apply to, and how I was going to get there. However, I did not expect that I would become really sick my second to last semester before graduation, which caused me to miss my entire graduate school deadlines. All of my careful planning went out the window. I was devastated. I did not know what to do. I could not afford to start paying back on my student loans within the next few months, and I would have to wait at least a year to begin the application process again. During the summer following my graduation, a co-worker gave me contact information of a graduate of a small graduate school in Atlanta. After a few messages and a phone call, I decided to visit the school. The application deadline was the next day. Without knowing much about the program and without giving much thought to the religious integration of my school (I never wanted to attend a religious school), I applied. Luckily, my bosses and former professors wrote letters of recommendation quickly so I could finish the process.

Fast forward to two years in the future. I was accepted and began the three-year track. My prior planning did not prepare me for what graduate school—clinical school—would be like, so I had to learn to be flexible. I never knew I would enjoy being at a religious school until about a year into the program. The self-reflection and training has stimulated a growth process in me that I never knew could happen. I am not the same person I was three years ago. I started seeing clients three weeks ago, and I have never been busier or happier. My life did not go as I planned, but I am so happy with how things turned out. I have been challenged in many different ways, I am proud of who I am becoming.

I never would have applied to my school without being sick and desperate. Looking back, I would not change my graduate school process. I feel as though I ended up where I needed to be, and I know that I will do good work in the future. To those considering college, I urge you to be flexible. Life does not go as we think it will. However, we all end up where we need to be. You may have to delay application and work for a bit first. You may get deferred or denied from a school. You may realize the school you're attending is not for you and you have to transfer. Whatever happens, things will be okay. You will get through it, and you will end up where you need to be.

This article was submitted by A. Rebecca Lanier, B.S., future LMFT and LPC.



CONNECT WITH US!

Interested in ways you can become connected or involved with AKEF? A great way you can is by connected with us on social media! Our scholarship fund grows as we gain awareness, so sharing our updates, following our profiles, and leaving us reviews helps us to reach potential donors and future scholarship recipients. You have the ability to help us reward more students with scholarships! All you have to do is connect with us! To connect with us on social media, click the hyperlinks listed below and follow, tweet, or like us across many different platforms!



Please Keep in Touch!

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980-395-3606

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