

## HIGHER ED COLLEAGUES OFFER ADVICE TO CREED STUDENTS ABOUT CAMPUS VISITS

For this issue of our newsletter, CREED called on two higher education professionals to give advice to our high school students about the importance of the college visit.



*Dr. Richard Hall*

**Dr. Richard Hall, Vice President, Student Affairs, Oklahoma City University, tells us,** “When students begin the college or university search process they should be reminded that it is never too early to think about where they might like to go to college. For most of us, regardless of our background or means, the first step to actualizing a dream, any dream, is to have a dream.

“Dream big! There are usually many roads that can take you where you want to go but with no destination in mind, with no dream of the possibilities then there is no reaching it, there is no road to travel, there is no achievement.

“Critical to the dream of higher education is a college visit - preferably more than one. Success in college is not only about academic preparation; it is also about fit and comfort

where you are both challenged and welcomed; where you are asked to risk but made safe. College decisions are made with the heart as well as the head.

“College visits help solidify and integrate both the heart and head as a decision is made. Not only will you learn more about the university of choice but the university learns more about you too. The college visit is about building relationships, about creating expectations and about how you and the university can meet those expectations. It is always important in the decision making process to ask all the difficult questions imaginable of both the university and of yourself as you work to align your expectations with the university experience you hope and can expect to have.

“If you are well prepared and you have tempered your dreams with real live campus visits, thus putting flesh on the bones of your dreams, meeting real people, walking the campus and halls and classrooms; meeting students and professors, coaches and administrators; your chances of making a solid and successful choice are improved many times over.

“Make a college visit an integral part of dreaming big. You will not regret it!”

### **Ms. Tahirah Jordan, J.D., Assoc. Dean, Institutional Diversity, Equity & Access (IDEA), Allegheny College.**

**Say Thank you.** Show your appreciation for the campus hosting you. Whether you are there for a 1-on-1 interview or part of a larger group, everyone from your tour guide to the your admissions counselor will remember that you appreciated the work they put into making your visit successful.

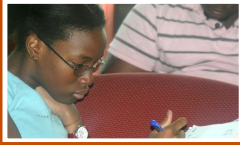
**Pay Attention.** In campus presentations, give the speaker your undivided attention. Take notes on interesting things about the school and ask questions about items that concern or interest you. Take advantage of this time, these presentations share information you cannot get from the web.

**Take Notes (and Pictures).** When you take notes and pictures it demonstrates that you are seriously interested in the campus you are visiting. It also helps keep your visits organized so you can go back later and reflect on the school in your application.

**Talk about Yourself.** College visits are one of the few times in life when it is socially acceptable and even encouraged for people to “brag” a bit about themselves. Share tidbits about yourself that someone would not be able to learn just by reading an application. Remember T.A.N.Y.!



*Tahirah Jordan J.D.*



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**Thank you for  
 Believing in our Youth.**

**WE DO SO MUCH WITH SO LITTLE.**



But plainly speaking, we could do so much more & there is so much more to do. As a small nonprofit, we are completely dependent on the generosity of our donors. There are no salaries or other compensation at this point in our work; we are dependent on my work and the contributions of our volunteers and donors. However, we can't wait to find a major funding source before providing our services to our student participants and our families. They need us now.

We look forward to finding sponsors who connect to our mission to provide educational consulting at no fee to the families with whom we work. We continue to research funding sources and prepare ourselves to apply for assistance from foundation grants and corporations.

Our message is clear and the need is evident, but there is no fast track for the funding process. In the meantime, we will continue educating our students and their parents about the college search process while preparing them to be successful once their selection is made.

Our middle school students are learning about the difference a college education can make in their lives. Our high school students are discovering that the admissions process is not overwhelming, and their parents are taking our guidance through the intricate financial aid and scholarship systems.

We stay connected to our students as undergrads to maximize their success and let them benefit from our years in higher education. We know you believe in our work, and it is your support that can allow us to continue our growth. **Please visit our new website, [www.creedonline.org](http://www.creedonline.org), to learn more about us and make a gift to support our work with our students.**

Believing in our Youth.  
 Terrence Mitchell  
 Executive Director & Founder  
 CREED College Readiness Program