

People To People Student Ambassador Brittany Glenn

My name is Brittany Glenn, and I am in the 11th-grade at Mt. Tabor High School in Winston-Salem. I was recently interviewed and accepted to participate as a member of the People To People Student Ambassador Program to in England this summer. The objective of the program is to promote international understanding while building leadership skills among America's youth. The 20-day experience includes meetings with government officials, interaction with other students my age, educational activities, and home stays with host families.

I am currently seeking donations to help me with tuition, and hope I can count on your support. In case you haven't heard of People To People, please allow me to share some history with you. President Dwight D. Eisenhower founded the organization in 1956. He believed that if people from different cultures could come together in peace and friendship, so eventually would countries. Since it's founding, People To People has launched many international programs, including Sister Cities, Project Hope and Pen Pals.

People To People student ambassadors are carefully interviewed and evaluated before their acceptance and I am honored to have been selected. Personally, I am looking forward to broadening my perspectives of the world, which will help me further my education by letting me experience other parts of the world. My goals are to graduate High School and attend Howard University where I will receive a degree in medicine. I am an honor student and have a GPA of 3.75. Upon my return, I plan to share my experience with schools and civic groups in our community. As an ambassador, I can also earn high school and college credit because of the many educational elements in my program.

The program tuition is \$5,500, which includes all transportation, accommodations, meals and educational activities. Is it possible for you to assist me by making a donation? Any amount of donations would be appreciated. I will be sending each contributor a postcard while I am on my trip.

Please make checks payable to Brittany Glenn. If you have any questions, please contact me at (336) 399-9674. Your generous donations would enable me to share in this wonderful opportunity. Thank you for your support.



Brittany Glenn

Kwanzaa Symbols Honor Kwanzaa

Symbols Honor Past And Celebrate Future

Family, community responsibility, commerce and self-improvement—these traditional African values are important to many African-Americans and the focus of Kwanzaa, a seven-day celebration observed by millions each year. Kwanzaa, which means "first fruits of the harvest" in the African language Kiswahili, encourages people to honor their African roots and reflect on their present-day lives. Founded by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966, this event is celebrated from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1.

Kwanzaa is based on Nguzo Saba, seven guiding principles: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith). It is a time for African-Americans to come together and work toward a better future, while remembering their past.

When observing Kwanzaa, it is important for family members to select a central place in their home where they will celebrate. This area should be decorated in black, red and green, the colors of Kwanzaa. Black represents the African-American people, red represents their struggle, and green represents the future and hope that comes from their struggle. The basic symbols of the celebration are:

- Mazao (crops)—Fruits and vegetables represent the African harvest celebrations and the rewards of productive and collective labor.

- Mkeka (mat)—A place mat symbolizes tradition and history and, therefore, the foundation on which African-Americans build their lives.

- Muhindi (corn)—Ears of corn represent African American children and their future.

- Kikombe cha umoja (unity cup)—This is symbolic of the principle and practice of unity, which makes all else possible.

- Zawadi (gifts)—Presents symbolize the labor and love of parents and the commitments made and kept by the children.

- Kinara (candleholder)—Symbolizes African roots and the cultures connection to their parents.

- Mishumaa saba or seven candles—These candles, one black, three red and three green, represent the Nguzo Saba.

Each day, one of the seven principles should be recited while the symbolic candle is being lit. Then, family members should tell what that principle means to them. Not only can this help people to reflect on the past and look toward the future, but it also can bring their family and community closer together.

Many Students Missing Opportunities For Financial Aid

Hundreds Of Thousands Of College Students Missing Out because They Don't Apply

By: Jim Brown

A new study says hundreds of thousands of college students who may be eligible for federal financial aid don't get it for a simple reason: they don't apply for it.

The study comes from the American Council on Education (ACE), which represents colleges and universities.

It says half of undergraduates enrolled in 1999-2000 at institutions participating in federal student aid programs did not complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

And 850,000 of those students, according to the study, would have been eligible for a Pell Grant.

Jackie King, director of the ACE's Center for Policy Analysis, says while she has no hard data on why students choose not to pursue financial aid, she does have some hypotheses.

"Despite all of our efforts in colleges and in high schools, there are still students out there who aren't aware that this money is available. So we've got some more work to do there," King says.

"We also think that there are quite a few students who are simply misinformed about who's eligible and assume that whatever money may be out there, it's not for [them]; it's for somebody else."

King says a final group of students is put off by having to fill out a fairly complicated government form.

She recommends students and families overcome those self-imposed obstacles and fill out the FAFSA in order to find out the aid for which they are eligible.

"It is possible that you won't qualify for grant assistance. You may only qualify for student loans," she explains.

"But these days the interest rates on student loans are at historical levels. So, while a loan may not be your first choice, it's not a bad choice for many students."

She encourages parents to contact the financial aid office at their children's school to get a sense of what is available.

"Vital assistance is available and no student should pass on the opportunity to receive that aid because he or she is misinformed, lacks the necessary information, or is unable to navigate through the financial aid process," King says.

According to the study, two-thirds of community college students did not complete a FAFSA in 1999-2000.

By comparison, only 13 percent of students at private for-profit institutions failed to do so.

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