



Thessalonika Arzu-Embry

Future Doctor Is Graduating...At 14

By Derrick Lane

Yes, you read correctly: a 14-year-old wiz kid is graduating from college, and her community couldn't be more thrilled.

Thessalonika Arzu-Embry, who lives on the Great Lakes Naval Base, will be graduating in August from Chicago State University with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. Thessalonika started college at the age of 11 at the College of Lake County.

Thessalonika wakes up early with her mother, Wonder Embry, and makes the long commute from home to her college classes. Not one to let time go to waste, on the way to school, Thessalonika and her mother study theory and talk about homework assignments.

Thessalonika dedicates all of her hard work to her mother, whom she says is her motivation.

"My mother is a strong inspiration to my success. She is a veteran of the United States Navy, and when she finished her tour, she home-schooled my brother and me."

Her proud mom says she was just doing the right thing for her children.

"Parents are the most influential force in their own children's lives, and they have the power to influence them to do good and to go forward," she says.

Thessalonika was home-schooled until she was eight and received the equivalent of a high school diploma. Passing an entrance exam, she got into the Col-

lege of Lake County and enrolled to study psychology. She currently carries a 3.9 GPA and is a member of the College of Lake County Honors program and actually enjoys studying — unlike many of her peers.

After she graduates, Thessalonika plans to continue with a graduate program for clinical psychology at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, a private college in North Chicago. Or... she'll attend Stanford University.

Thessalonika says she chose clinical psychology because of her desire to help others.

"When I began to think about a profession, I chose one where I could make an impact."

We wish this future doctor all the success in the world!

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