

## Why College Is Important to Me

by Troy Haynes

Hidden in the corner of my old room, I discovered a piece of me that was lost for so long. This was a large worn oak chest with cast iron bars and nails which worked to keep the contents sealed within. It seemed over the years that my once-beautiful chest had warped and grown dark with dust and debris, yet the memories of life that hid underneath the lid of this large container remained untouched by my ever-changing world. It was not until I opened this portal did I realize how far I had come from the old person I had once known so well. It seemed to me that the more I dug into this rabbit hole of my past, the dimensions which this chest embodied began to transform into a looking glass.

As I began to remember why I put each item into this chest, it was almost like a time capsule for my future; one that contained pictures of family, money from foreign countries, and artifacts which meant more than the world to me. Some of these photographs were of family members who no longer walk this earth as their time of opportunity in the future had already passed. I knew in this moment that I was given a life full of possibilities to pursue whatever goals would satiate my hunger of immense knowledge. These are the reasons behind why college is so important to me.

Digging deeper into this time machine of a chest, I discovered books which were so advanced it seemed that the uncertain child which placed them within knew that one day this love of knowledge would appeal to my older self. I have spent countless hours hunched over a psychology textbook trying to determine the reason behind life, but all I have deduced are the theories that define the human understanding of the world. No evidence has ever been concrete; only mere hypothesis.

Years later after the discovery of this piece of my soul frozen in time I have come to the conclusion that work is nothing but impact that it has on the people around you. I have used this moral in my everyday life and continue to implement it as I volunteer at the Hospital for Special Care and

perform group projects in my Upbeat Peer Leadership Program. People say that it's the hard work one must do for themselves to go far in life, but I believe that success is measured by the people you help and the work you put in to do so. We live in a world full of selfish people preoccupied with their own well-being. I aspire to break that chain of action and create a name for myself as one who goes above and beyond to help others in their time of need. That is the legacy I hope to one day build for myself. When reflecting on this looking glass of my past, it has only strengthened my hopes for a future of treasure beyond what a simple chest can contain.