

**EDUCATION PAYS AND SUPPORT NETWORK ASSIGNMENT**

Based on the facts listed discussed in the **Education Pays 2013, The Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society** article, how might completing a bachelor’s degree improve your:

Long-term financial outlook?

Considering the mentioned 15.2% return on the annuals, I’d have to say that is a very conservative view when compared to my goals, intentions. I’m looking to not only invest in my knowledge base, but also become a better man. A man more suited to make the best possible decisions; not only for myself, but for my future family, colleagues, friends, and community. I believe the Computer Science degree to be an empowering part of my success equation and look forward to learning, achieving, and experiencing the collegiate progression with Trident University.

Job Satisfaction?

I think the completion of the Computer Science degree will enable me to enhance my job satisfaction through better decision making and validation of current abilities. Knowing one’s self, is an intrigal part of job satisfaction and I intend to continually examine my performance, knowledge base, and decision tree to ensure job satisfaction in any future role I partake.

Health?

I used to work in construction and almost never needed to hit the gym. My work was very physically demanding and often I would find myself too fatigued to even consider going to the gym for anything but the sauna. As a college student, I frequent the gym regularly and my overall health has improved significantly. I imagine the solid habbits I form during this educational phase of my life will carry with me into the professional setting.

Civic Involvement?

Part of my goals and desires is to become more involved with Politcs; so, I’ll be adding to the 46% of 4-year degree graduates that are active in local and federal decision making. In the past, I used to rarely – if ever – vote. With my ability to manage my time more appropriately and exercise proficient risk management skills, I’m looking forward to playing a more participative role. To what extent is currently, undefined.

**Importance of a Support Network for Adult Learners:**

(This assignment was adapted from an exercise in [True North, Discover Your Authentic Leadership](http://www.billgeorge.org/files/media/true-north1/chapter7exercises.pdf).)

Definition of the Adult Learner

*“Any* *student, regardless of age, who has adult responsibilities beyond college classes, and for whom those adult responsibilities take priority in times of crisis”* (NACADA [Advising Adult Learners Commission](http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Community/Commission-Interest-Groups/Advising-Specific-Populations-I/Advising-Adult-Learners-Commission.aspx)).

There is a lot of information in the literature about the student support strategies that are beneficial for the 18-21 year old college student. Most of these strategies are geared towards the brick and mortar, traditional university environment.

**Adult students**

Who is the most important person in your personal support network? Why is this person the most important and in what ways do they provide you support?

God is! Without Him, I am nothing. I know. I tried. That being said, I do not place one person as more important that another. I will add, though, I am usually the one supporting folks and it has been quite hard for me to take a back seat and allow myself to change, grow, and learn. This has been quite a difficult time, for me, and while financials are important… I’d say the most important support group that I have established are those with positive energy. The kind words of recognition or encouragement have meant more to me than any other type of support that I have. I thrive off of positive energy and usually am the one to create an atmosphere for it. Having others do that for me has been a rarity, in my life.

What role has your family played in your personal development and in your development as a leader?

My family has taught me how to not live my life. My uncle has given me some really great advice when I was a child and I remember man things that he had told me out of love. That being said, I do not live my life the way they have – with the hope of retiring and living out my days in a really nice and warm location. No, I expect I’ll be working for as long as I’m able. I love working and I love making a difference in the lives of those whom I touch. This degree I’m working on is a magnificent attempt to fuel those efforts and help make the changes that are needed - in our society and the world over.

**Teachers/Coach/Mentor**

Describe the most powerful learning experience that you have ever experienced. Who was the teacher/coach/mentor and what traits did they possess? How did this experience influence your personal development?

This is certainly a tough question to answer, for me. I have many instances and people that I could discuss. I suppose the only one appropriate would be my friend, Stacey. He and I worked shoulder to shoulder for many months and helped me to learn how to use my hands – in construction. He is a solid worker, driven, ambitious, and loving. His ability to know when to give up was something that always shocked and awed me. Unlike him, my tenacity knows no bounds. This was a flaw, for me, and he wasn’t able to teach me how to get around that in the moment. But after years of practice and reflection, I’ve been able to strengthen what was once a flaw into a great strength.

**Friends**

Which of your friends could you count on if things did not go well for you? Describe a relationship that has been mutually beneficial to you over an extended period of time.

Click here to enter text.

Describe a relationship that did not work out for you, for which you feel some degree of responsibility. What would you do differently if you had the opportunity to do it over again?

Click here to enter text.

**Developing an Academic Support Group**

Do you have an ‘Academic Support Group’ in place? If yes, how will you formalize these relationships so that you can accomplish your academic goals? If no, what steps will you take to get an Academic Support Group in place?

Click here to enter text.

References

George, B. & Sims, P. (2007). True North, Discover Your Authentic Leadership. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

NACADA’s Advising Adult Learner Commission Website:   
<http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/Community/Commission-Interest-Groups/Advising-Specific-Populations-I/Advising-Adult-Learners-Commission.aspx>