

MESSAGES TO OUR BLACK SCHOLARS



Dear Black Scholar,

Resilient. Focused. Brilliant.

These are the words that come to mind when I think of you, Black Scholar. You are graduating during a very unique time and I know this isn't the way you envisioned graduation this year. The world is in an uproar and I am sure your spirit is too; however, you have achieved something that not many people have: You earned a college degree during a global pandemic! The most unexpected and inconceivable obstacle interrupted your studies, your life, your spirit, your relationships and your focus, yet you defeated it!

How does it feel?

How does it feel to defeat a global pandemic?

Identify that feeling and keep it close because you will need it later. You will need it to remind yourself how amazing you are when something seems tough or confusing. You will need it to stay encouraged when you feel alone and misunderstood. You will need it to keep you focused when you have momentarily lost sight of your goals and passions.

You may lose people. Don't lose this feeling. You may lose things. Don't lose this feeling. You may stumble. Don't lose this feeling. You may even fall, but don't lose this feeling. This feeling is triumph. This feeling is pride. This feeling is peace. This feeling is success. This feeling is your fuel!

Welcome to a large network of UCR Black Alumni who carry the responsibility of giving back to their community proudly. We are so proud of you! Keep fueling your fire, hold this feeling of success close and let it fuel your future of good and righteous work! Remember, young Black Scholar-- You are not a victim of your circumstances, you are a VICTOR of your circumstances.

PUSH THROUGH!! Your time is here and now!! You are strong, you are a leader, you are worthy, you are intelligent, you are successful and we celebrate you! We celebrate you for your current achievements and for those achievements you have on the way...because we know they are coming! No matter where life leads you: grad school, entrepreneurship, an entry level job, activism, the family business, etc- Carry your memories, family, and life lessons from UCR with you. Lean on the Black Scholars who came before you for networking, leadership, mentorship and encouragement. This is #VillageBusiness. I am here for you. We, the Black Alumni Chapter, are here for you and we celebrate you! Congratulations on your well-deserved success, Black Scholar!

MESSAGES TO OUR BLACK SCHOLARS



Here is some advice for your new journey:

1. Amplify your passion!

Key words: “Your passion” Not anyone else’s. Find out what YOU are passionate about and do it on a big scale. Not for money or recognition, but because it will feed your soul. You should always have something you are involved in that genuinely makes YOU happy.

2. Be precise and strategic about your career goals.

If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Take time out of your schedule, regularly, to plan out your career and the why behind every move you make. Every step you take in your career should be a stepping stone up to your bigger goal. Knowing the goal upfront helps you get through the tough times when you feel like you have no energy left.

3. Give back through time, talent and treasure.

Never forget that you were once a Black Scholar in need. In need of money, motivation, inspiration, advice, and education. You were once confused. You were once broke. You were once just trying to make it. Giving back doesn’t always need to be monetary. The Black Alumni Chapter encourages you to give back to Black Scholars who

will come after you through time and talent as well. Those are things we can’t put a price on because they are extremely valuable. Consider making mentorship, servant leadership and volunteering apart of your life after graduation.

We love you! Congratulations!

Rooting for everybody Black,

Keona Henderson c/o 2008

UCR Black Alumni Chapter President – linktr.ee/UCRBlackAlumni

Entrepreneur & Professional Speaker – linktr.ee/PositiveWomenMeetUp