

Impactful Service, Authentic Professorship

Joyce E. Kyle Miller, PhD • Texas A&M University-Commerce

Questions

How can a **college professor** with experience and academic preparation in education **utilize his/her skills to impact the daily lives** of the gifted community in a positive way? In an effort to address Kindergarten through 12th grade students, how can **classroom teachers and schools** access the human, materials, and other **services offered** by the college/university community?

Introduction

Traditionally, the work of the college professor

Teaching, Research & Service

- to the University
- to a department
- to local and state organizations
- to the local community

Expectations

University Community

Research and publishing is actually much more highly regarded than Teaching.

The Community Beyond the University Campus

The college professor to engage in helping to solve problems faced by gifted students and parents.

The Challenge

In the United States, low socio-economic youth and minority youth who graduate high school **without basic skills**; ever growing **achievement gap** between **Hispanic, Black and White youth**; **gifted youth and youth in general need assistance** making **career choices**, completing **college applications, scholarship applications**, applications for **financial aid**, and having an opportunity to **visit colleges** as they make decisions about **what colleges they will attend** following high school graduation.

IMPACTFUL SERVICE: THE CHOICE, THE BALANCE, REALITY

College Tours

- Fall and Spring College Tours
- Students register for the tours & pay nominal fee
- Charter Bus –55 Passenger Bus
- Chaperones (5) – Community Volunteers
- Students (50)
- Three (3) University Campuses per day
- Campuses in Close proximity
- Students Eat Lunch on Bus to Save Time
- Organized by the College Professor

Awards Programs

Designed and implemented in conjunction with area schools:

- Scholar/Athlete Recognitions
- Excel Awards programs designed to recognize and encourage elementary and middle school students
- Image Awards program designed to recognize students for excellence in academics, athletics, the arts, and leadership.

Services for Teachers and Parents...

- Professional development has been planned and implemented for private school educators.
- Family Math and Reading Nights have been created and implemented for these private schools which often lack the resources of the public schools.

Leadership Development Organizations

- Youth Council Organization (Professor serves as Advisor)
- Local, state, and national conferences

Education Forums

which focus on...

- Career exploration
- College preparation
- Practice test for the ACT & SAT
- Tips for taking these tests

Workshops Addressing

- Essay & resume writing
- Completing college applications,
- College admissions applications,
- Financial aid applications

ACTCSO

(Afro Academic Cultural, Technological, Scientific Olympics) Scholarship

Competition Chairperson

Competitions in 32 different categories...

- Humanities
- Sciences
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Business
- Entrepreneurship
- Local & National Competition

Planning, Human Resources, and Material Resources

- Funds for college tours provided by churches
- Students pay a nominal fee
- In-kind building use provided by colleges, churches, and school districts
- Services provided by community volunteers, university faculty and other personnel, experts in their field of endeavor
- Community organizations provide travel and housing
- College professor provides service, organization, and implementation of events

Recommendations

- Write out in bullet form what you would like to accomplish.
- Make direct contact with college professor and other college personnel regarding needed services or ideas for projects.
- Communicate with the head of the department where services are available.
- Ask college/university personnel for assistance with a project

