**Hezekiah Brady, Jr. Scholarship: Biographical Essay**

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C.R.A.F.T Organization

May 27th, 2022

**Introduction**

In today’s society it is imperative that one indulge themselves within the act of generativity. Generativity is the propensity and willingness to engage in acts that promote the well-being of younger generations as a way of ensuring the long-term survival of the species. My name is Aaliyah Magruder and I am very honored to have been selected to apply for the Hezekiah Brady, Jr Scholarship. Within this biographical essay I will be discussing my community background, educational and career goals, my plans to actively engage with the C.R.A.F.T organization upon graduation, and religious affairs.

**Community Background (Volunteer & Leadership)**

During my short time of two years living here in Phoenix, Arizona I have spent countless hours giving back to the community, by volunteering my time and helping an adult athletic semi-pro football team. This semi-pro football team goes by the name of the West Valley Vengeance. Every Tuesday and Thursday I attend practices from 8:00pm-10:00pm assisting the coaches, players, and staff with any specific needs they may require. On Saturdays when games are being held, I am usually running around either selling tickets at the front gate, checking in players, taking professional photos during the game, and overall just making sure the day runs smoothly. Outside of the physical help that I provide, I also helped create and manage the media pages for the team making sure the fans were also up to date on current schedules, rosters, and team events.

**Educational & Career Goals**

 When it comes to my education and my career those are two categories that I do not take lightly. As of April 23rd, 2022 I have completed my second year of undergrad here at Grand Canyon University, where I was able to pull off a 4.0 gpa with all A’s in all four of my courses. My goals for my education are strategically planned out based on the willingness and determination of my success. One of my favorite quotes “Failure will NEVER overtake me, if my determination to succeed is strong enough” -Og Mandino. I firmly believe that there is a huge stigma within the African-American community and their perspective on the importance of mental health. Part of the reason for that stigma could be the lack of African-American mental healthcare professionals. I want to be able to show my people that mental health is just as important as our physical health, by showing them that I care and overall being a shoulder for them to comfortably lean on and confide in. After graduating undergrad in spring of 2024 with my bachelors of science in psychology and a minor in criminal justice, I plan on applying for a state job within Maricopa county in hopes of becoming a probation officer. As a probation officer I strive to give back to my community by cleaning up the streets of Phoenix and ensuring that people get to successfully fulfill their second chance at life while staying along the course of their probation. While working as a probation officer, I will be able to be assisted with funding for my pursuit of a masters degree in social work at Northern Arizona University. Furthermore, upon my completion of my masters degree, I will go on to follow the steps of becoming a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) where one day I can open my own private practice and be a service to my community providing mental health support.

 **Actively engaging with the C.R.A.F.T Organization upon graduation**

As I mentioned in the introduction of this essay, generativity is one of the most significant acts of kindness one can perform in order to perpetuate the cycle of success within the younger generations to come. Upon my graduation, I plan to stay actively engaged within the C.R.A.F.T organization by giving back to the younger upcoming high-school or college graduates in any way that I can. If needed, I would be willing to come back home to Illinois, to speak at the organization’s different events and award ceremonies that they may have going on. I would also love to create and establish a big brother/big sister mentorship program within the C.R.A.F.T organization, giving the younger and upcoming graduates a chance to shadow and connect with us older veterans who have already experienced and gone through what they’re preparing for. Due to my great appreciation of this organization/program, If I can be of service to the C.R.A.F.T organization in any way after graduation I will be extremely honored.

**Religious Affairs**

I have been born and raised as a Christian all of my life, while attending Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church during my years of living in Illinois. My journey of religion and my relationship with Jesus Christ has always been a number one priority within anything that I attempt to do in my life. A major decision of choosing which college to attend was heavily influenced by my religious affairs of being a christian. Choosing Grand Canyon University has been one of the best commitments that I have made in my life. Grand Canyon University is a private Christian college where the atmosphere is truly unmatched. Even though I have struggled to find a new church home upon moving here to Phoenix, I have been able to attend the services held and provided by my school which has ultimately increased and strengthened my overall walk in faith.

**Conclusion**

In Conclusion, again, it has truly been an honor to have been considered for the Hezekiah Brady, Jr. Scholarship. I will continue to exemplify the qualities and characteristics of one who is determined to be generative and selfless while giving back to their community. My plans for my life are very important to me as I have put my trust into God, and promised myself to never give up and lose hope. My favorite bible verse says, “For I know the plans I have for you declares the LORD, Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”. -Jeremiah 29:11.

**References**

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