



A MESSAGE TO WTAC FROM A PARENT

Thank You Is Not Enough!

Our daughter's journey to and through Tuskegee has been a series of unexpected gifts. Even the challenges have been gifts in disguise. Things our family needed that we didn't know we needed! Near the top of that list of unexpected gifts is the WTAC!

Tuskegee was not what our daughter wanted but it is everything she needed. She was preparing to follow in her mother's footsteps on to the campus of the University of Maryland when we received the scholarship offer from the only HBCU with an accredited Aerospace Engineering program. As an HBCU grad (Morehouse) I was excited. It was also a full circle moment as my mother was a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute School of Nursing.

Somehow, somewhere my wife found the WTAC. In the beginning, if I'm honest, it did not appear to be the special organization I later realized. Soleil finished high school and started college during the beginning of the Covid-19 shutdown. We expected her to be home but instead, she was 12 hours away on campus taking classes from her dorm room. In a new place and isolated! Enter WTAC, sending care packages and notes of encouragement to the students. It was like boxes of love from home. The students were encouraged to participate in the online meetings and to their surprise they would often get a lil Sumthin' Sumthin' via cash app for their participation showing them there were alumni that were there to celebrate them and cheer them on. It was not just candy and words on pieces of paper, WTAC sent the students chocolate-covered encouragement and sweet



words of care and comfort when they may have felt lonely and homesick.

The WTAC leadership does not just talk the talk but they walk the walk, and it starts at the top. The Coopers seem to be the heartbeat, the not-so-secret secret weapon! Visiting campus multiple times a year checking in on our students while on campus and yes, sometimes putting a lil Sumthin Sumthin in their hands. I witnessed this with my own eyes at the end of this past school year. They called our daughter as we were cleaning out her room and

putting things in local storage for the summer. Because she is a RA she was one of the last students to leave campus. The Coopers were still there as well and after visiting with Soleil and me, Marcus reached in his pocket and left our daughter with a few “dead presidents”. I am not a TU alum but I’m a proud and grateful supporter of WTAC! If you’re standing on the sidelines, get involved! You will be providing so many families, like ours, with something they did not know they needed! Thank you WTAC for all you have done and what you will do in the future. Thank you is not enough, but this one is coming from our hearts!



May God Bless you real good,
Vince & Camille Chapman
Proud Parents of Soleil Chapman
Class of 2024 and future WTAC Member!

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