

# TAKING THE NEXT STEP

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Essential Information for the College Bound

## Summer 2016



Recently, I completed another year of guiding purposeful high school seniors, as they trudged through the perplexing college application process. There were moments when the expectations seemed daunting. However, when the last application was submitted, I believe there was not only a sense of great relief, but also one of fulfillment. As I reflected on how applications have a deeper significance than securing a place in a college of choice, I shared these thoughts in my letters of congratulation.

*You made it. You did it well. You are on your way to the heralded college years. CONGRATULATIONS!*



*You have come through a year that made many demands. Certainly the demands of college applications! Over and over you were called upon to introduce yourselves in essays that would allow colleges to learn who you are. How to do that was a great challenge! As a starting point, I encouraged you to tell me stories from your life. Moments in time that you had stored in the pictures of your mind. When you recalled those moments to me, I was able to learn more about how you had developed into the person I had come to know. And, invariably, I would find nuggets that defined you, nuggets that would define you to admissions offices considering you for admission.*

*Most importantly, I believe capturing these stories helped you to know yourself better. I believe we are the stories of our life. And your stories have only begun to unfold. I see the essays you have written as something more than a college application exercise. They are stories that you will look back on to see who you were at this moment. They are stories that you will build upon as you go forward discovering who you are.*

*That is why I encourage you to hold on to these essays. Think of them as a meaningful record of who you are now. Think of them as a meaningful record of who you were when you look back at your life in years to come. We truly know ourselves best at any time in our lives if we can look at ourselves through these stored moments in the pictures of our minds.*

*As you move on to college, and beyond, continue to mine the stories of your life, letting them form the pathways you will take into your future.*

*My best goes with you...*



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