

Terry Pickens

Our world is undergoing dramatic changes in climate, social structure, and technology. Successful people must be lifelong learners. Those who do not make the leap into the future armed with degrees in higher education will increasingly be marginalized. Our only grandchild, Damon, is a happy and active toddler. Like most children he has a healthy curiosity. Damon's family understands we must foster that curiosity and help him succeed in school. We hope Damon will love learning, and will be prepared to continue formal and informal education throughout his life. When we imagine Damon as an adult, we see him as an energetic young man who contributes to society in positive ways. An undergraduate degree will provide him with a number of skills including the ability to communicate effectively, think logically, problem solve efficiently, and handle the inevitable problems that crop up in everyone's life. A college education is fundamental in ensuring that Damon grows into an adult who is not only tolerant of different people and cultures, but someone who embraces those differences and works to create a just society. I can speak for all four of Damon's grandparents when I say that most of all, we hope Damon will be a happy and confident person who will give more back to the world than he takes. We believe that a college education will ensure he has the ability to do so. Thank you for this opportunity to begin a college savings account.