



My enrollment at Okaloosa County Head Start was the beginning of an educational career that would lead to my graduation as Summa Cum Laude of the Choctawhatchee High School class of 2010. I feel that the emphasis that Head Start placed on encouraging curiosity and a love of reading have helped me to excel not only academically but also in all of my other endeavors. In high school, I entered into the International Baccalaureate program because I had become used to taking advanced classes and it was in this program that I realized that the lessons that Head Start had instilled were invaluable. It was here that the lessons that I had taken for granted: always share with others, be respectful, ask questions, hold hands and always stick together, and always try your hardest, were of great use and helped me to succeed in an extremely competitive program and to excel socially as well. My academic record allowed me to be selected for scholarships like the National Achievement Award and the Florida League of IB Schools scholarships. I also received a full scholarship to attend Vanderbilt University and Auburn University; I was also accepted into Georgetown University. Now all that remains is to decide which school to attend. Head Start has taught me many lessons that will always remain with me, but perhaps the most important, no matter what your age, is when venturing out into the world, look, everything you need to know is out there somewhere.