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**For Immediate Release**

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**APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR SUMMER 2020  
CHOCOLATE UNIVERSITY PROGRAM AND TANZANIA TRIP**

Springfield, Missouri - Askinosie Chocolate and Drury University partner to offer a unique learning opportunity, Chocolate University, to Springfield area high school students and are now accepting applications for the 2020 Chocolate University international business immersion program at [chocolateuniversity.org](http://chocolateuniversity.org). All application materials must be submitted online by September 30, 2019.

The Chocolate University high school program seeks to inspire young students to become global thinkers and to realize small businesses can offer solutions to the world's problems through an experiential program involving small business entrepreneurship, direct trade in the international cocoa industry, community development work, and exploration of students' plans and goals. The program culminates with a week spent on the Drury University campus full of courses on leadership, Tanzanian culture, craft chocolate, and international business. The students then embark on an international business trip with Shawn Askinosie, founder and CEO of Askinosie Chocolate, company leaders and Drury University faculty, to remote southwestern Tanzania, where the company sources cocoa beans and has partnerships with a cocoa farmer group, village, and schools. The students are immersed in rich Tanzanian culture and are present for international business transactions.

Members of high school classes graduating in 2020 or 2021 and residing or attending school in Greene or Christian County may apply. The online application process includes an essay and recommendation letters, from which a narrowed pool of applicants are chosen for in-person interviews. The 2020 trip will be Askinosie Chocolate's sixth Chocolate University class, having brought students to Tanzania in alternating years since 2010. The class of 2020 will be comprised of 14 students - half of which will receive full scholarships, funded by generous donors to Chocolate University.

The next information session about the program will be held on September 11 at Askinosie Chocolate, 514 E Commercial Street, from 5:30-6:30pm. Visit [chocolateuniversity.org](http://chocolateuniversity.org) for more program information.

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