



AskinosieTM
chocolate

NEWS RELEASE

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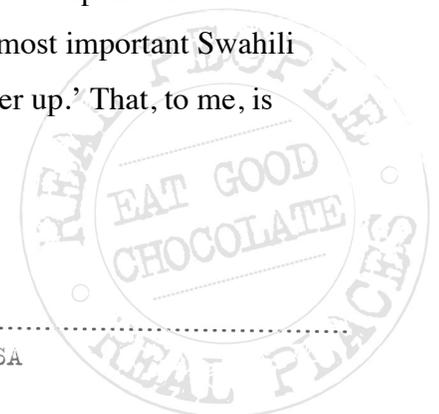
Chocolate University Students Arrive in Rural Tanzania To Work With Cocoa Farmers

Springfield, Mo.- The Askinosie Chocolate team—and the 14 high school students in their 2016 Chocolate University program—just arrived in remote Southwestern Tanzania where they will spend a week working with a cocoa farming community.

The students will assist Shawn Askinosie, Founder & CEO of Askinosie Chocolate, on cocoa bean business and implementing various community development projects in Mababu, Tanzania, one of the four communities across the globe from which Askinosie sources cocoa beans for his chocolate. Askinosie, facilitated by the students, will share profits with the farmers, inspect the company's next shipment of cocoa beans and lead a chocolate tasting for cocoa farmers. After months of preparation, the students will also engage in a few community initiatives they helped create. These include leading a “Vision of Greatness” sessions for the Empowered Girls club Askinosie Chocolate funds, instituting an Enlightened Boys club for whom the students will also lead a “Visioning” session and installing sack gardens for widows and orphans in the village with the help of the cocoa farmer group.

Shawn Askinosie says kinship in business is the focus of these trips. “Throughout the week, our students will work alongside our farmer partners, spending time in their homes, helping to harvest cacao and getting to know their families. This is a business trip. But it's also about strengthening relationships and building community, together. The most important Swahili word we teach the students is ‘kujengana’ which means ‘to build each other up.’ That, to me, is what business is about.”

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The Chocolate University class of 2016 includes: Alec Hilton (Central High School), Amanda Morrison (Central High School), Aneva Jefferson (Central High School), Anna Mercer (Grace Classical Academy), Bao Ha (Central High School), Baylor Barnes (Parkview High School), Desiree Johnson (Central High School), Emma Brand (Glendale High School), Emma Weiler (Springfield Catholic High School), Leila Ismaio (Nixa High School), Ronnie Warren (Nixa High School), Sydney Martin (Glendale High School), Timothy Hodges (Central High School), Zachary Smith (Nixa High School). A Drury University student, Abigail Akinyemi, is traveling with the group as a student leader.

Follow along with the group's journey on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram with the hashtag #OriginTripTanzania2016 and by following @askinosie on social media. For more information, visit chocolateuniversity.org. Tax-deductible donations for projects or sponsorships are accepted through the Community Foundation of the Ozarks at <http://bit.ly/ChocUnivDonate>.

Askinosie Chocolate

Askinosie Chocolate is a small batch chocolate manufacturer with 15 employees located in Springfield, Mo., sourcing 100% of their beans directly from farmers and founded at the forefront of the American craft chocolate movement. Shawn Askinosie, founder and CEO, travels to Ecuador, Honduras, Tanzania and the Philippines to work directly with farmers and source cocoa beans. This allows the chocolate to be traced to the source and labeled Authentic Single Origin Chocolate. It also enables Askinosie Chocolate to profit share with the farmers, giving them a Stake In the OutcomeTM. The Askinosie Chocolate mission is to craft exceptional chocolate and serve their farmers, their customers, their community and each other, striving in all they do to leave whatever part of the world they touch better for the encounter.

Chocolate University

Chocolate University is a neighborhood and global outreach and experiential learning initiative of Askinosie Chocolate. It was formed with a vision to provide a learning experience to Boyd Elementary, Pipkin Middle School and local high school students through the lens of artisan chocolate making and small business. The goals of the project are to inspire the children about entrepreneurship, a world beyond their own, and that small business can solve global problems. Askinosie Chocolate funds Chocolate University through 100% of their tour proceeds and generous contributions.

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