



AskinosieTM
chocolate

NEWS RELEASE

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**Askinosie Chocolate Selects Local Students For 2016 Chocolate University
Trip to Tanzania**

Springfield, Mo.- Askinosie Chocolate, in partnership with Drury University, has selected 14 high school students for their 2016 Chocolate University program, which culminates in a trip led by Shawn Askinosie, founder and CEO of Askinosie Chocolate, to remote southwestern Tanzania in August.

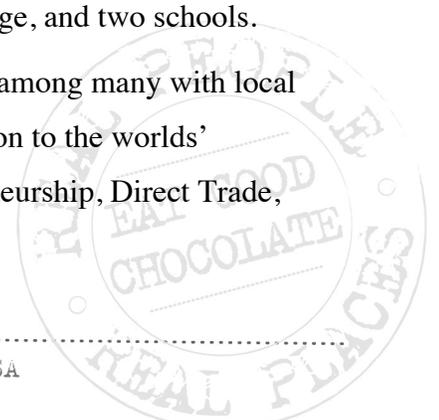
The students will not only have a front row seat to an international business transaction and work alongside cocoa farmers, they will also design and implement various community development projects including hosting nutrition/sanitation seminars, leading visioning sessions for an Empowered Girls club funded by Askinosie Chocolate, creating sack gardens for widows and orphans, and more.

Throughout the year, the students will spend time with the Askinosie Chocolate team learning about the company's internationally-recognized business model, work in small groups on the various projects they will enact once in Tanzania, and finally spend an immersive week on the Drury University campus to take in-depth courses on Tanzanian culture, leadership, open book management and profit sharing, social entrepreneurship, and more. In late July, the group will depart for their 10-day trip to the Kyela district of Tanzania, where Askinosie Chocolate sources cocoa beans and has partnerships with a cocoa farmer group, village, and two schools.

The high school program, just one Chocolate University initiative among many with local students, seeks to inspire young people that small business can be a solution to the worlds' problems through an experiential program about small business, entrepreneurship, Direct Trade, the cocoa industry, community development work, and more.

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Askinosie[™] chocolate

The outstanding students endured a rigorous application process and represent the best of Greene and Christian county schools including Glendale, Central, Grace Classical Academy, Parkview, and Nixa.

The Chocolate University class of 2016 includes: Alec Hilton, Amanda Morrison, Aneva Jefferson, Anna Mercer, Bao Ha, Baylor Barnes, Desiree Johnson, Emma Brand, Emma Weiler, Leila Ismaio, Ronnie Warren, Sydney Martin, Timothy Hodges, Zachary Smith.

This is the fourth Tanzanian Chocolate University trip, with groups led by Askinosie also traveling to the Kyela district in 2010, 2012, and 2014. To follow the journey and learn more visit chocolateuniversity.org or Askinosie Chocolate's Facebook page at facebook.com/askinosie.chocolate. 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 Outcome[™]. 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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