

November 2010

Dear Clients and Friends:

I just finished reading a book that should be **REQUIRED** for every college-bound student. But first, it should be read by their parents. Debt-Free U is a savvy, compelling and possibly life-changing paperback you can pick up for under \$15. Save a whole bunch of money on Christmas presents this year by having Amazon.com gift-wrap copies and send them directly to your friends and family.

Teenagers will learn more about choosing a college than they'll ever find out from their high school counselors. Zac Bissonnette is the author, and he takes aim at a bunch of myths: it pays to go to a big-name university; student loans are a necessary evil; you can't get a good education at a community college. He explains how to acquire a quality education, enjoy the "college experience," obtain a degree, and graduate debt-free. This book has a lot of great advice about how to pay for college without taking out loans.

In my case, I went away to college and graduated in 1974 with \$16,000 in student loans. But what if I could do it all over? This time I would stay another two years at my parents' home in El Cajon, attend Grossmont Junior College, then transfer to San Diego State or another large public school. A part-time job would cover expenses.

College is the second-largest investment most people will ever make, and many graduates end up with large loans. What's smart about that? Kids need to enter their adult lives with a proper attitude about debt. And here it is: the less debt, the better. Instead of struggling to pay off loans, they should be setting money aside in an investment program and letting time work its magic.

Avoid the malls this year and do your holiday shopping early. Debt-Free U!

Regards,



Charles M. Shackelford