

## Positive Reinforcement Works!

What does positive reinforcement mean to you? More importantly what does it look, feel, and sound like? Let's be real—it's difficult to really think positive all of the time. I'd like to think I do, but I am sure I have moments of negativity. I purposely try to be that positive energy in everyone's day all the time. Positive reinforcement means a couple things to me—I will always remind you that it's going to be okay on your worst day; the glass is not half full or half empty but full *all the time*, and last it means if you believe in positive energy and karma and you can visualize positivity, you ultimately will be a positive person.

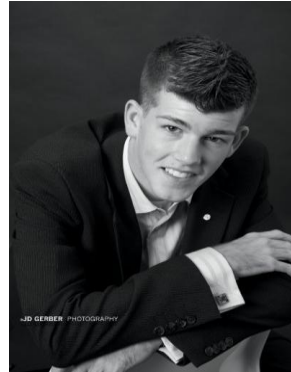
There have been many moments over the last two years where situations came up, and I felt like things were just meant to be! Recently, I had an opportunity to attend a train the trainer, anti-bias and diversity workshop for the Anti-Defamation League in Cleveland, OH.

On day two of the training, we participated in an exercise that required the group to choose two images cut out from magazines. We were asked to choose images that related to our personal hopes and challenges for educating our world on anti-bias and diversity. Of course, me being me I totally fudged the directions and chose an image of a beach and a man in a tux with a missing bride outlined with black dashes, implying I love going to the beach and marriage anytime soon might be a challenge for me. By the time my turn came to share with the group, I made a decision to share what was on the back of each of the images I selected.

On the back of one was an article about DREAM and on the back of the other was an advertisement about Criss Angel's Cirque de Soleil show, BELIEVE! In my work with P4L, the university and with the ADL; my hope is that kids DREAM, and my challenge is to help them gain the mindset and courage to BELIEVE in those dreams. What really blew me away about the words DREAM and BELIEVE, which brings back the issue of positive reinforcement, is every day when I walk into my apartment I look directly at prints that hang in my living room, one says DREAM and the other says BELIEVE.

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## July Student Spotlight



***Kurtis Kunkel  
Lincoln East '10***

***2010-2011 DECA  
International  
President***

I am originally from a smaller town outside of Lincoln, Roca. I began school at Norris Elementary/Middle School. After finishing eighth grade I had the opportunity to transfer to Lincoln East High School. Beginning at East was an adventure for me, being a school of approximately 1,500 students, there was many more opportunities available to me. The most important of which being DECA.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with DECA, it is an organization focused around marketing, management and entrepreneurship. The high school division of DECA contains about 180,000 members across 6 different countries. I had the privilege to serve Nebraska DECA as a State Officer throughout my senior year, where I had the opportunity to network with many established and up-and-coming business leaders, such as Lamarr. As I grew as a person with DECA I decided to take my involvement to the next level, running to become the International President of DECA. I worked for 6 months on a campaign to be executed in Louisville, Kentucky, at the DECA International Career Development Conference. After the most hectic weekend of my life, I now have the honor to call myself the 2010-2011 International DECA President.

I find myself very lucky to have found what I am passionate about, so when I had the opportunity to hear Lamarr speak it was very reassuring and provided multiple perspectives of ways to "Find Your Passion." I have been able to use this message, and will continue to use it, to educate and motivate students throughout my term in office, and in the many other activities that I am involved in.

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Seriously, what are the chances of that? It gives me reason to smile and remember to keep on keepin' on!

It is so important to not only think positively or talk positively but to see positivity every single day. How many of you actually write out your goals for the year? How many of you have positive messages or quotes that you can see every day? How many of you look for signs of positivity and things that are just meant to be? Every day I remain positive, have the best attitude no matter what is bothering me, and strive to make someone else's day better. By doing that, I stay reassured and you should too that positive things can and will happen to you. They might happen for you and hopefully for the people around you!

#### Contact P4L for your next student event!

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Passion for Leadership will separate itself by holding 4 core values close to its overall delivery:

- 1) To personally connect with students at every leadership session we attend!
- 2) To be sure every student will take home one piece of information they can apply tomorrow.
- 3) To ensure an experience students have never seen before!
- 4) To let every student know we are available for follow up with them after leadership sessions!

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/passionforleadership](http://www.facebook.com/passionforleadership)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/passion4!](http://www.twitter.com/passion4!)

You Tube: [www.youtube.com/lamarrwomble](http://www.youtube.com/lamarrwomble)

## Social Group connects Women!

*Women of Color embracing the beauty of their natural hair... by Trudy Minor*

Kinky Girls was started in October 2009, by Trudy Minor. The purpose for this social networking group was to bring women together in the Omaha metro area, with the common interest of natural hair.

I went natural in November 2008 and did my BC (Big Chop) on June 23rd, 2009 at 6:05pm. For me this was a new beginning on how I saw myself, I no longer needed to "fit in" with the traditional standards of beauty. What Kinky Girls provides is that support system and that encouragement for women to continue their natural journey even when things get difficult. Kinky Girls considers going natural to be a journey, there is no exact destination, so we encourage women to find beauty at every stage of their hair. Kinky Girls was started as a social networking group, for the purpose of bringing women together, although our common interest is natural hair, once we are all together we find other commonalities. The group varies from ages 19-52, and everyone is at different stages with their hair. We welcome those that have not made the decision to go natural, but are interested in learning about natural hair. We are not experts in any way, however, we can teach through our experiences.

The goal of Kinky Girls is to open a beauty shop that specializes in natural hair and that sells natural pride products as well as natural hair products. I would love to open shops like this in the untapped markets for natural hair. This would assist with people being more willing to go natural knowing that they have a place to go to get their hair done. I would also like to set up more social networking groups to aid with women supporting other women through their journeys. Please check out the blog at [www.kinkygirlsomaha.blogspot.com](http://www.kinkygirlsomaha.blogspot.com) or email me at [KinkyGirlsOmaha@yahoo.com](mailto:KinkyGirlsOmaha@yahoo.com). Stay tuned for more Kinky Girls buzz!

## Quote of the Month

**"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive."**

-Gil Bailie

## Passion on the Plane!

Recently, I had an unique opportunity on connecting flights to sit next to a 21 year-old first time flyer and a 5 year-old third time flyer. She was on her way to the French Consulate in Chicago with her Dad to finalize her paperwork to study abroad in France in August, which will be her second experience on a plane! I was excited to be a part of her journey that day because she was genuinely excited about being on the plane. She snapped a picture of her view of the flightline before takeoff and quickly asked me to take a picture of her and her father as well.

The following flight I sat next to one of the most inquisitive 5 year olds I have ever met, Jack! As I sat down Jack's mom, Tara, mentioned he'll get a little crazy that's why the seat is empty. I happily took on this challenge. Jack and I instantly connected about Scooby Doo, how I could get hooked up with a sweet pair of plastic wings like him and the new kids craze, silly bandz.

What I saw in these two individuals at opposite ends of the spectrum that inspired me to write was a **genuine excitement and fearlessness** of a considerably older first time flyer and the **inquisitive mind** of a kid who is still innocent enough to our society that still has the ability to be **creative** without the critique of the world!

As you look to discover your passion, what gives you that first time flyer feeling which will lead to the ability to think creatively outside the plane because these are some of the most important qualities involved in pursuing your passion!