



NOTABLE MINORITIES WHO CHANGED HISTORY

January 18, 2008

Featuring
Sondra Wilson

“Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any other one thing.”

- An Abraham Lincoln Quote

January is National Blood Donor Month

Many people know that when you donate blood it goes to people in need, but what you may not know is how great that need is. Every two seconds, someone in this country needs blood. That need continues to grow, but with just one blood donation, you can help save up to three lives. To learn more about donating blood during National Blood Donor Month, visit www.aabb.org.

January Dates to Remember:

- 1 - New Year's Day
- 1 - Emancipation Day
- 1 - Feast of St. Basil
- 1 - Japanese New Year
- 5 - Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday
- 6 - Epiphany (Christian)
- 6 - Three King's Day (Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic)
- 7 - The Nativity of Jesus Christ
- 13 - Lohri (Buddhist, Hindu, sikh)
- 15 - Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday
- 15 - World Religion Day (Baha'i)
- 20 - Eid-ai-Adha (Islamic, Muslim)
- 26 - India Republic Day
- 29 - Ashura (Islamic, Muslim)
- 29 - Tet Nguyen Dan (Vietnam)
- 31 - Al Hijra - Muslim New Year

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Columbia State is an AA/EOE Educational Institution.



Sondra Wilson

Sondra Wilson Academic Achiever

Sondra Wilson is a twenty-one year old proud Tennessean. She was born right here in the great Mule Capitol of the World on September 27, 1986, to parents William and Annie Wilson. Her mother works for Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) here in Columbia, and her father works for Spectra Energy, also here in Tennessee. She has an older sister named Ashley Wilson who is an LPN at the Spring Hill Family Medical Group.

Sondra attended Riverside Elementary School, and then attended middle school at E. A. Cox. It was not until she attended Spring Hill High School that she became involved.

Whether it was being the student council secretary, senator, vice president, president, or attending Volunteer Girls State as a delegate and becoming mayor of her city, to being a member of Youth Leadership Maury; there was never a dull moment in her life. Being a leader was truly an adrenaline rush for her. Sondra always thinks "what can I do next to brighten someone else's day."

Then after much pondering as to what she wanted to do after high school she chose to attend Columbia State. Sondra says, "This was probably the wisest decision I have ever made in my life. I can remember it like yesterday me walking down the hall my first day and hearing Mr. Aubrey Flagg teach about "life lessons" in his geography class. (I learned more in his class than I have learned in my whole college career)." While attending Columbia State, Sondra was on the Student Government as a senator, then as vice president and during her sophomore year she decided to run for president and won.

Sondra was also appointed to the Tennessee Board of Regents as the student Regent for the State of Tennessee by the governor. Then she was later appointed to Tennessee Higher Education Commissioner as a student commissioner. Sondra was the first student in the State of Tennessee to be appointed to both boards by the governor of Tennessee. Sondra is currently attending Middle Tennessee State University with a double-major in political science and history, and a minor in secondary education. She was appointed to student government as a senator of liberal arts this fall.

Sondra plans to graduate in May 2009. She wants to teach in Maury County for a few years while working toward her master's and doctorate's degree. Then she wants to get into higher education and become a professor, hopefully at Columbia State, one day. Sondra says, "From there who knows. I have learned that change is the only constant thing we can depend on. So I just fly by the seat of my pants."

Sondra says, "I thank God every day for all the blessings he has bestowed on me. I have an amazing mother and father that support every single thing that I set out to achieve and for that I am forever thankful. I have learned to stay humble and never forget where I came from. I know that nothing is ever promised and I can't take anything for granted."

(Source : Wilson, S. (2008) *Interview on Sondra Wilson*. Conducted by Wilson, S. and Woody, K. on 01/17/08 by Columbia State Email.)

Did You Know?

Children and patients up to age 21 residing in Maury County and surrounding counties now have access to basic dental care at the Maury County Health Dept. Beginning Monday, January 28 anyone under age 21 who does not have private dental insurance is eligible for these services. The Health Department is located at 1909 Hampshire Pike in Columbia. Normal hours of operation are 8am - 4:30pm, Monday - Friday. Fees will be based on family size and income. TennCare is accepted. For more information or to make an appointment, call the Maury County Health Department at (931) 388-5757.

The annual MLK Collaborative Celebration Weekend - January 19 - 21. On the 19th the MLK Recognition Banquet will be held at the UAW Hall in Spring Hill at 7:30pm. On the 20th, the Youth Blast will be held at Columbia Central High School from 4:00 pm till 9:00 pm. On the 21st, the March will be held in downtown Columbia at 9:00 am, and a Memorial Service will be held at Columbia State in the Cherry Theatre from 1:00 pm till 4:00 pm.