

SAMPLE PAGES



EXPANDING COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY

a roadmap to college for parents and students

Stanley B. Lemons

© 2014 by Stanley B. Lemons

All Rights Reserved.

Expanding College Opportunity is a trademark of Stanley B. Lemons and is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Stanley B. Lemons

stanlemons@expandingcollegeopportunity.com

www.expandingcollegeopportunity.com

For bulk orders of *Expanding College Opportunity*, contact

TheSecretToWriting.com at 404.869.1290 or email info@thesecrettowriting.com.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2014917550

ISBN-13: 978-0-9909278-0-8

ISBN-10: 0990927806

Printed in the United States of America

Exterior Design: Erin Hamilton and Cynthia J. Mitchell

Interior Design: Cynthia J. Mitchell

Back Cover Photo by Anderson Flewellen

The contents of *Expanding College Opportunity* may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the author or his authorized legal representative.

The publisher of *Expanding College Opportunity* is not responsible for the contents of this publication. This book is intended to provide accurate, timely, and helpful information to its readers. Readers assume responsibility for the interpretation and use of this book's content. The author and the publisher shall not be liable for any losses or damages experienced by utilizing the contents of this book.

Expanding College Opportunity is published by The Secret To Writing, LLC.

Contact Information:

The Secret To Writing, LLC

3455 Peachtree Road, N.E., 5th Floor

Atlanta, GA 30326

404.869.1290

info@thesecrettowriting.com

www.thesecrettowriting.com

The
Secret to Writing.com®
Because Words Matter

acknowledgements

I want to acknowledge and give special thanks to my family and friends for their love and support in helping me to bring Expanding College Opportunity to fruition.

I especially want to thank the following individuals for their encouragement, feedback, and assistance with this book: Tosha Bussey, Larry Chappell, Judith Coleman, Dr. Barbara Graves, Erin Hamilton, Amy Hite, Carver Johnson, Jenine Lemons, Matthew Lemons, Roger Mann, Cynthia J. Mitchell, Joy Mitchell, Marilyn Moody, Jon Nemeth, Shenita Piper, and Ann Rickenbacher Thaxton.

So many people have shown love
for me and invested in my personal
and professional growth...
I am abundantly grateful.

I hope this book, with its markings
of my life journey,
will be a blessing to others.

Intentionally
Blank

table of contents

Preface	11
Introduction	15
PART 1 The Big Picture	
Chapter 1: <i>Overview of the college admissions process</i>	23
Chapter 2: <i>Understanding your college options</i>	27
PART 2 Making the College Choice	
Chapter 3: <i>How to choose a college</i>	41
Chapter 4: <i>Researching colleges</i>	49
PART 3 Getting into College	
Chapter 5: <i>Grades, standardized tests, extracurricular activities</i>	61
Chapter 6: <i>Recommendations, interviews, essays, discipline report</i>	75

PART 4		Completing the Application Process	
Chapter 7:		<i>When, where, and how to submit your application</i>	95
Chapter 8:		<i>Deciding on which college to enroll</i>	105
PART 5		Paying for College	
Chapter 9:		<i>The financial aid process: making it work for you</i>	113
PART 6		A Roadmap for Success	
Chapter 10:		<i>Five principles to ensure your academic success in high school and college</i>	131
Chapter 11:		<i>Staying on track from middle school through high school</i>	137
Conclusion: Reflections On The Journey			149
Afterword: My Story			155
Resources			165
Sources			167

Intentionally
Blank

Intentionally
Blank

preface

I graduated from Amherst College, a small liberal arts school in Amherst, Massachusetts. Statistically, less than 15% of students who apply to Amherst are admitted.¹

When I applied to colleges as a high school senior, my goal was simply to go to college. I knew little about Amherst; and, as a first-generation prospective college student, I knew virtually nothing about attending college.

I come from a family of modest financial means, and neither one of my parents attended college. However, like many parents, my mom and dad wanted me to have a good education; in this regard, my story is not uncommon. Students from diverse backgrounds, often in the face of difficult life circumstances, attend and graduate from college.

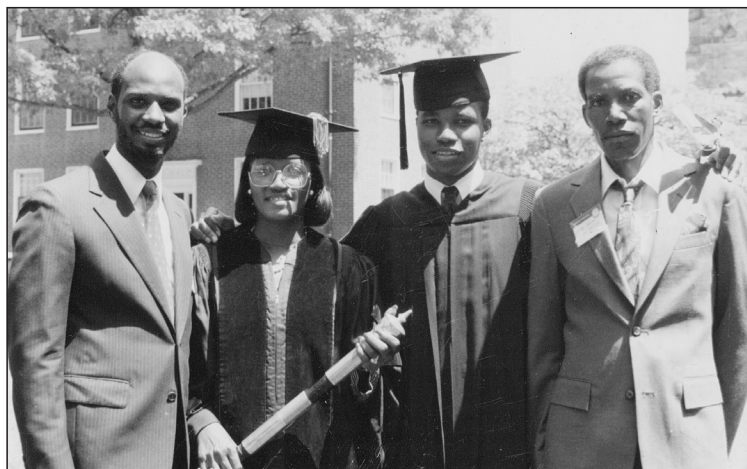
Yet a problem that many students and parents face is that they are unfamiliar with the college admissions and financial aid processes. This is especially true when the student is the first in his or her family to attend college. (That was certainly the

1. 2011-2014 admissions rate data on the Amherst College website

case with mine.) As a result, many students and parents do not know how to take full advantage of the enrollment opportunities available at many colleges or the financial resources that are available to help students attend college.

I wrote *Expanding College Opportunity* to fill that information gap. In my experience leading college seminars for high school students and their families, I've been fortunate to facilitate countless "I get it" moments, when students and families understand the process to college admission and financial aid, and realize that they can do this, regardless of their financial or educational background.

With *Expanding College Opportunity*, my goal is to help students realize their dream of going to college. I want you—parents and students—to read *Expanding College Opportunity* and get the information you need—quickly and easily. More than anything else, I want students to embrace the belief: If you want to go to college, you can go. *Expanding College Opportunity* is your roadmap.



My Amherst College Graduation

Left to right:

My brother—Wendell Hart

My mother—Rue Dean Lemons

Me—Stan Lemons

My dad—Walter Lemons

Intentionally
Blank

introduction

Expanding College Opportunity is a book that can be used by all students and parents. If a student wants to go to a highly selective college, such as Harvard, Stanford, or Amherst, *Expanding College Opportunity* will provide you with the insight to help you get in. Likewise, if a student wants to attend a local state university, *Expanding College Opportunity* is an equally valuable resource.

Why is going to college important?

There is a great deal of data that supports the answer to this question. Here are my thoughts:

- A college degree provides you with more job or career opportunities during the course of your lifetime
- A college degree helps you earn more money
- The college experience helps you grow as a person by exposing you to new people, new ideas, and new information
- College equips you with the skills and know-how to create new companies or invent new things
- A college degree can help you live a more enjoyable life because you will be in a position to afford an overall higher standard of living

What is the purpose of this book?

The purpose of *Expanding College Opportunity* is as follows:

- To serve as a straight-forward, short, easy-to-read, explanation of the college admissions process
- To ease the anxiety of parents and students about college admissions and paying for college
- To help students gain admission to college

Who is this book for?

- High School Students
- Middle School Students
- Parents
- Educators
- Transfer Students
- International Students

In *Expanding College Opportunity*, I talk primarily to you, the student, although there are parts of the book where I talk directly to parents, educators, and others to address their specific questions and concerns. While you may choose to skip around the sections of *Expanding College Opportunity*, I recommend you read the book from start to finish. I say this because the information in the beginning of the book provides the foundation for some of the points I make later.

There is a lot of information in this book. And while it is my hope that readers will read *Expanding College Opportunity* in its

entirety, there are some main points that I hope each constituent group will remember. I share those points with you now.

**End of
Sample Pages**