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For Immediate Release

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Applications Open for Chocolate University Class of 2027

SPRINGFIELD, Missouri — Askinosie Chocolate, The Askinosie Foundation, and Drury University are partnering to offer Chocolate University, an exciting experiential learning journey for high school juniors and seniors in southwest Missouri.

The Class of 2027 will be the program's eighth group of student travelers, joining a community of more than 120 Chocolate University alumni. Applications are now being accepted through September 15, 2026, at chocolateuniversity.org.

Operating since 2008, Chocolate University uses the Askinosie Chocolate business model to introduce students to cocoa direct-trade sourcing, entrepreneurship, and international business through a one-of-a-kind immersion experience.

Current high school juniors and seniors graduating in 2027 or 2028 may apply. Fourteen students will be carefully selected to participate in a six-month preparatory course culminating in a 10-day international cocoa-origin and business immersion trip alongside an award-winning bean-to-bar craft chocolate maker.

The curriculum includes lessons in business finance, innovative problem-solving, craft chocolate production, cacao agronomy, international cultures, leadership, personal reflection, and vision-setting for the future. High school students throughout southwest Missouri are invited to apply.

In addition to financial backing from Askinosie Chocolate, many alumni, business and community leaders across 417-land generously contribute to the program. Strong community support allows every member of the Chocolate University Class of 2027 to participate at minimal cost and creates an inclusive and equitable learning opportunity for highly qualified students from across southwest Missouri.

Visit chocolateuniversity.org for additional information, the application, and additional media resources.

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