





**Eva Blanco Masias:** I showed up to campus without having seen the campus ever before, so I wish I could have visited a number of different places. So I always tell students: do that early, and don't put yourself under pressure, right. So if you are-- you know there's really no time to really get started, but even the 9th grade it could be really as easy as we're vacationing somewhere we've never been to and just down the street or a few blocks away there's a campus. Just step foot on it and just start getting a feel, a look and feel of the location, and the things that I would tell folks going through this is that one, life isn't a race. You know, take the time you need to take to make the right choices for you.

**j:** AJ, you got applications in front of you, you've got acceptance letters, what are some of the top tips and things you would have known thinking about your decision making process?

**AJ Williams:** For me, I had no clue, no clue about this stuff, and that's part of why I like doing it now. But, I played basketball, and coming up in the household, it was always an expectation -- you're going to college; but nobody really knew how to tell me to do that, so I figured you know, basketball could probably pay for it. That was a big part of it, the money aspect. I didn't even apply, two schools coming out of high school -- I had schools that were looking at me for athletics. That ended up taking me to prep school on the East Coast. Came back home because it got real cold and I realized I was a California guy.

**j:** Your blood wasn't made for it?

**AJ Williams:** It wasn't made for it, I'm a tropical person. But I ended up at a community college and then at a University, and what I will say is that each step after high school I learned. In terms of the process, honestly I wish I would have known just about the different types of

**Eddie Kelinsky:** How have my academics in high school prepared me for this specific program that I'm interested in?

**j:** AJ, everyone knows there are challenges being a typical first-year college student; how does Santa Clara University help address these challenges?

**AJ Williams:** Yeah, that's a great question, and the reality is: whether you go to school 5 minutes down the road or 3000 miles away, you're gonna get homesick at some point, you know. We have a housing situation here at Santa Clara, that's the residential learning communities. So it's themed housing, you live with folks that hopefully share similar social and academic interests and things like that. So those kind of things can help. Getting involved, and you know, with social clubs, cultural clubs, all that of kind of stuff helps. So I tell folks all the time: it's a college, universities-- our students have fun. If you party too hard, you ain't gonna last too long, if you study too hard, you're gonna burn out. So it's about balance, you know.

**Eva Blanco Masias:** I can't tell you how many times I hear from students just what wonderful relationships they have with their professors. You know, instances where sometimes students will do really bad on a test and it's not uncommon that that professor might tap them on the shoulder and say, "come see me" you know, "let's talk about this, let's make sure that you're getting this and that next time around there's some improvements". So, there's some real engagement, it's real genuine. I've heard of professors inviting students over for a Superbowl party, or "let's just go have coffee, or dinner", and I think that when you build some real genuine relationships with your mentors, with your educators, that just goes a long way because it really, I think, ignites a passion for what you're learning. That's one of the aspects of a Santa Clara education that I find to be just really unique. I hear that over and over again and again, this has been over the span of the 14 years that I've been here.

**j:** Eddie, so you just graduated in June and now you get to help aspiring students to invent the life they want to lead, so how did SCU, how did being a Bronco, prepare you to do just that?

**Eddie Kelinsky:** You know, we're a smaller university, so the opportunities here are meant to be-- you know, they're yours for the taking as an undergraduate. So I was able to do and accomplish just about everything in college I was interested in. I wanted to lead a life where I could learn more about the world and global culture and I was able to study abroad in Germany in a program that specialized in the EU so I got to travel to like 10 different countries through the program. That was something that I wanted to do and Santa Clara had the resources to help me accomplish that.

**j:** Alright deciders, you guys are the experts. How should students get ready for what they're about to experience when they come to Santa Clara University?

