



Nico Hinkle

2009 Scholarship Recipient



Nico Hinkle graduated from Dunbar Senior High School and was awarded the Economic Club scholarship as part of the inaugural class of 2009. Raised by his mother along with his seven siblings, Nico realized at an early age that a higher education would open career opportunities and he worked hard towards that goal. A standout in high school, he was accepted to several colleges and chose to attend school in a brand-new location (for him) a long way from D.C.: Florida Agricultural and Mechanical State University. Entering college, Nico hoped to major in accounting, but after his first year decided to broaden his exposure to business and changed his major to Business Administration and Management. College helped him discover a passion for languages, and he spent time learning both French and Mandarin Chinese.

Nico's ongoing relationship with the Economic Club began immediately upon receiving his scholarship award. In the summer before he attended college, Nico attended the Accenture Professional Development Seminar where he was introduced to the corporate office environment and began honing his networking skills. As the scholarship programming gained momentum, he participated in other Economic Club-sponsored events such as Lunch and Learns and a visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Nico believes that being a part of this prestigious scholarship helped build his confidence and professionalism.

In 2015, Nico was tapped to be the keynote speaker at the Scholarship Awards ceremony, which welcomed the seventh class of scholars to the Economic Club. His talking points touched on his desire not to let his environment determine his future, his determination not to succumb to homesickness and unproductive peer pressures and grieving the loss of a parent during his sophomore year in college. Although facing many challenges, Nico became the first person in his family to earn a college degree.

After graduating, Nico left the warm Florida air and moved back to Washington. His career began as a Property Assistant at Brookfield Properties where he excelled and was soon promoted to Assistant Property Manager. Nico recently earned his Real Property Administrator designation, a rigorous program entailing eight different courses of study. Currently, Nico is the Assistant Property Manager for American Real Estate Partners.

Today, as an Economic Club alumnus, Nico continues to stay involved and has recently been named the Chair of the Alumni Leadership Council (ALC). He looks forward to engaging more

alumni and promoting the Economic Club as a resource base. His personal goals include becoming a homeowner, starting his own business, finding a unique way to give back to the community, and becoming a mentor.

Nico's advice to scholars: "Be confident and learn as much as you can. If you need to speak out about something, speak out about something. Someone around you may be going through the same thing but they are just not that confident to say it or they are scared that they will ruffle feathers. Be confident, be yourself, learn as much as you can, and teach others".