

TCU ACAP College Readiness

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10:40 am – 11:40 am

Speaker: Odell L. Brown, CIA, CPA, PHR



MPrints

P.O Box 380426

Duncanville, TX 75138

Cell: 214-212-9374

Email: odellbrown72@gmail.com

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/odell-brown-cia-cpa-phr-7bb0184](https://www.linkedin.com/in/odell-brown-cia-cpa-phr-7bb0184)

Odell L. Brown (Retired) At-A-Glance



Career Awareness & Development:

- Targeted Coaching & Mentoring
- Career Transitions Resources
- Accounting Career Awareness Program (ACAP); see www.dallasacap.com
- Adjunct Human Development Professor
- College Internship Program

Human Resources & Training:

- ADA/Career Transitions Resources
- Business Acumen
- New Leader Onboarding
- HR Workshop
- Emerging Leadership Development Program
- ERP Implementations (PeopleSoft, SAP)
- Instructional Design/Facilitation
- College Relations and Recruiting
- College Internship Program
- Continuing Education for 120 CPAs

Accounting & Auditing:

- Adjunct Accounting Professor
- VP--Financial & SEC Reporting
- Internal Audit Director
- Public Accounting

Education & Certifications:

- Harvard Business School (Executive Leadership Development Program)
- Master's in Professional Counseling
- Master's in Human Resources & Training
- Bachelor's in Accounting
- Certifications: CIA, CPA, PHR (CFE—inactive)

Past Employers:

- MPrints (Owner)
- Southwest Airlines Co. (Retired)
- North Lake College
- Associates First Capital Corporation
- KPMG LLP



With some mentees

My Personal & Professional Desires:

- Make a positive difference in the lives of others (to “Lift As I Climb”)
- Travel to interesting places
- Meet a lot of interesting people
- Have viable career options (not “jobs”)
- Live comfortably

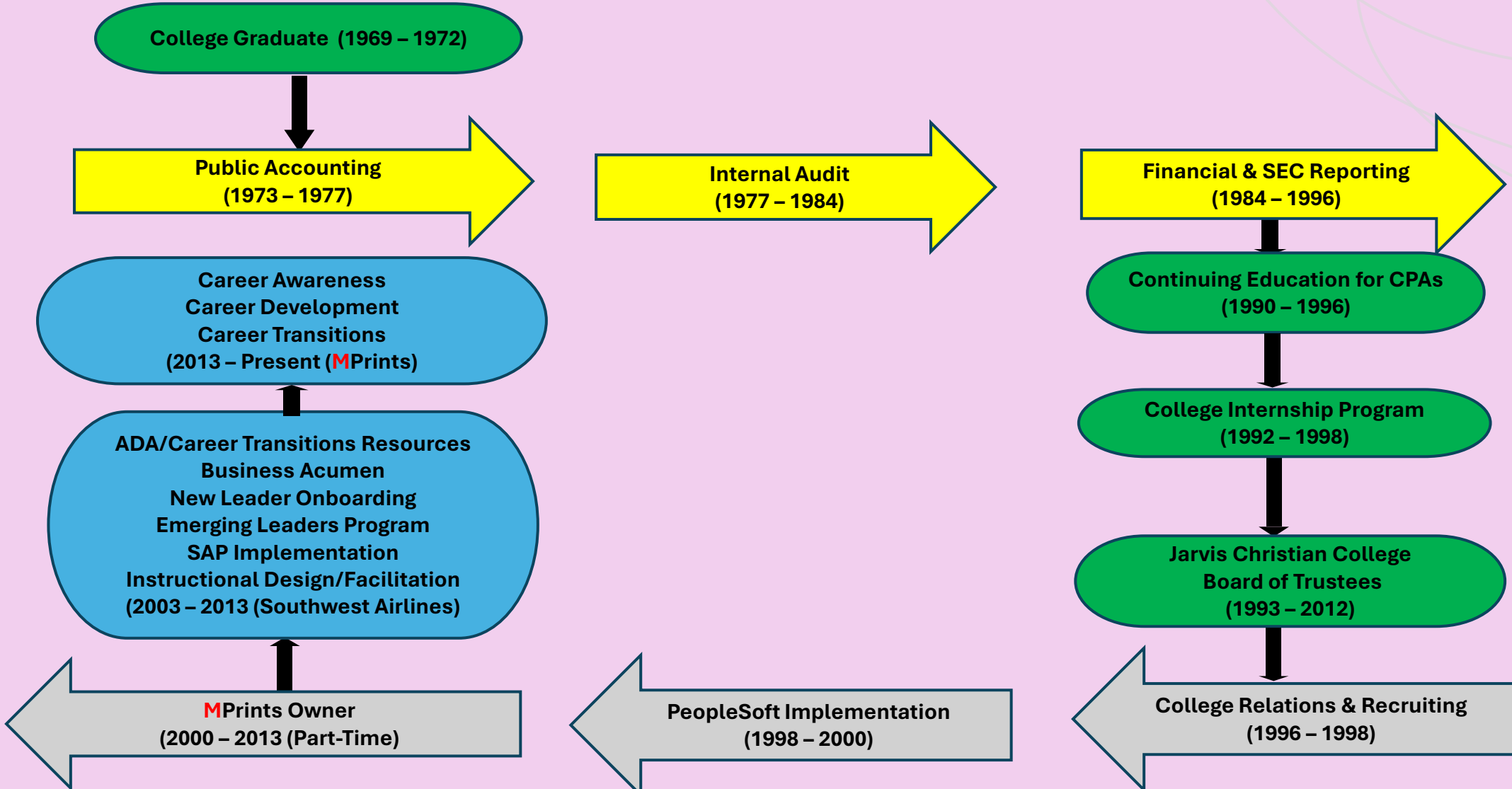
Some Keys to Success:

- Strong desire to succeed (passionate)
- Strong work ethic; perseverance
- Purpose-driven goals/life
- Insatiable desire to learn; thirst for knowledge
- Ability to handle confidential information
- Strong attention to detail
- Organized; strong project management skills
- Strong leadership skills; ability to follow the lead of others
- Strong ability to build relationships (network with a purpose)

Basically, have a good combination of being:

- * Technically Competent
- * Socially Acceptable
- * Politically Astute

Odell's Career Journey



Odell L. Brown, CIA, CPA, PHR

A Snapshot of My Guiding Principles

North Star:

“Leaving a Legacy Behind: Inspiring others to live with faith, integrity, and purpose”.

Mantra:

“Responsive, Resourceful, and Relevant”

Who am I?

I am a child of God.
I am an intentional learner.
I value growth; I love to mentor; and
I endeavor to make a positive difference in
the lives of others.



Personal Mission Statement:

“To be the best that God would have me to be, living with integrity and compassion, and making a positive difference in the lives of others”.

Purpose or Mission: My “Why”.

Passion: My “What”.

Gift/Talent: My “How”
(The Tool: What God uniquely equipped me to do.)

Top 3 Spiritual Gifts:

- Shepherding
- Mercy-Showing
- Teaching

Jeremiah 29:11: *“For I know the plans, I have for you...”*

Romans 12:6: *“We have different gifts according to the grace given to each of us.”*

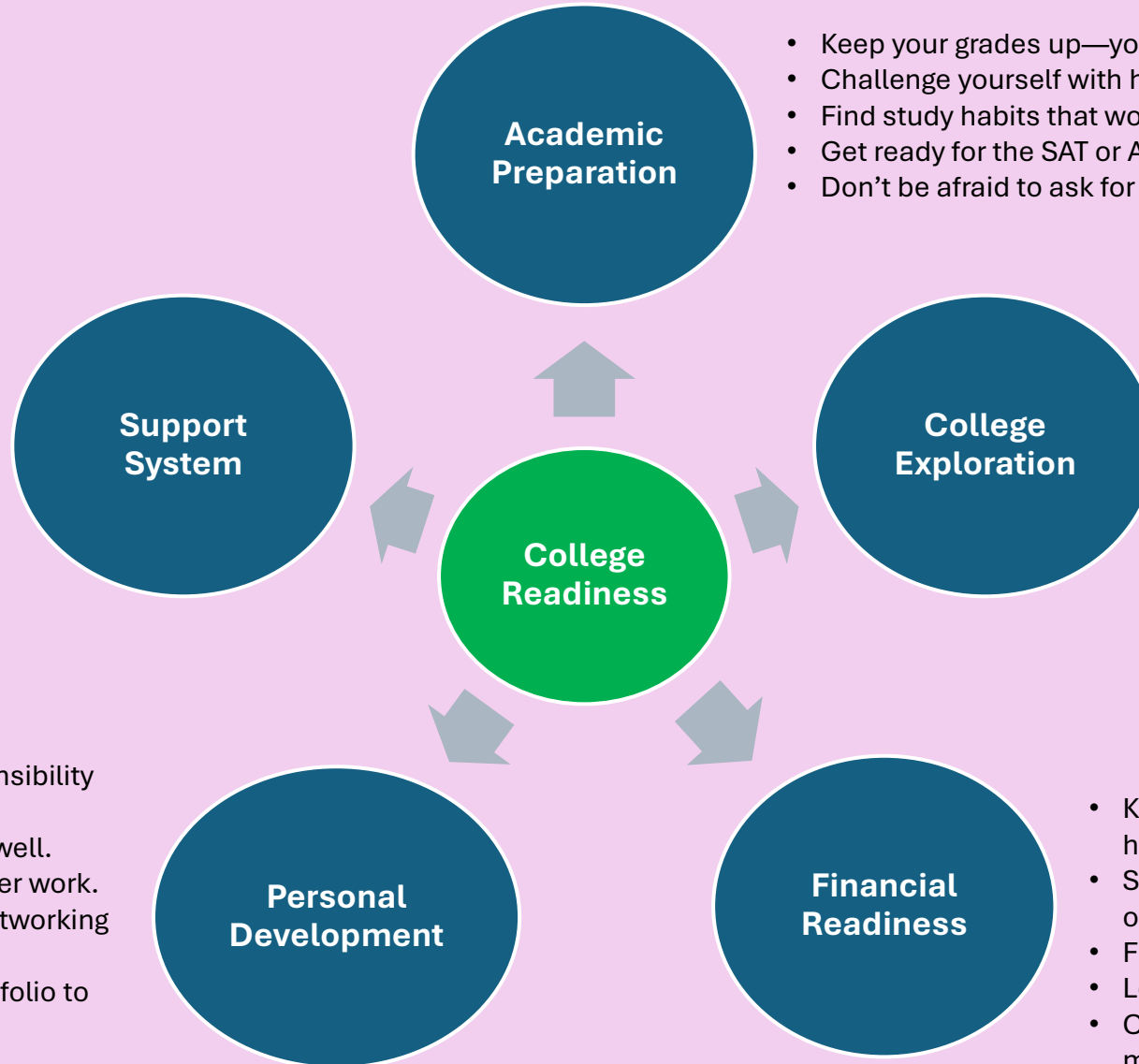
People Bingo: College Readiness

Instructions:
Check off (mark "X") what you've done, question what you're not sure about, and identify areas to work on.

Has taken the SAT or ACT.	I want to go to college out of state.	I have applied for a scholarship.	Will be a first-generation college student.	Has a LinkedIn profile or resume.
Participate in a college prep or bridge program.	I have completed a college application.	I have completed the FAFSA.	Has a part-time job.	Enjoy public speaking or debate.
Know what you want to major in.	Is interested in attending a community college.	FREE SPACE	Loves reading.	I know someone currently in college.
Is taking or has taken AP or dual credit classes.	Plan to attend a HBCU.	Wants to be an entrepreneur.	Is involved in sports or band.	Volunteers in the community.
Has a part-time job.	Has a dream school in mind.	Has a side hustle or business idea.	Participates in a leadership program.	I have talked to a college recruiter.

College Readiness Tips

(Think 'ACAP')



Academic Preparation

- Keep your grades up—your GPA really matters.
- Challenge yourself with honors or dual credit classes.
- Find study habits that work for “you” and stick with them.
- Get ready for the SAT or ACT—practice makes progress.
- Don’t be afraid to ask for help or find a tutor if needed.

College Exploration

- Explore different types of colleges.
- Know your reach, match, and safety schools.
- Visit campuses or attend virtual tours and fairs.
- Learn what each college needs and when.
- Start building your college list.

Financial Readiness

- Know the real cost of college—tuition, books, housing, and fees.
- Search and apply for scholarships early and often.
- Fill out the FAFSA to unlock financial aid.
- Learn how to budget and start saving now.
- Open a bank account and get smart about managing money.

Personal Development

- Practice self-discipline and take responsibility for your choices.
- Discover what you enjoy, value, and do well.
- Get involved in clubs, sports, or volunteer work.
- Strengthen your communication and networking skills.
- Start building a resume or personal portfolio to showcase your growth.

Support System

- Build strong relationships with your school counselors and teachers.
- Find mentors and role models who inspire and support you.
- Don’t hesitate to ask for help—academically, emotionally, or otherwise.
- Talk to current college students to hear real experiences.
- Include your family in your college planning and decision-making.

Choosing A College: What's Important to Me

What I Value	Ideal Rating	My Acceptable Rating	College #1	College #2	Comments or Questions to Consider
Location	10				The college/university is an appropriate distance from home. It is in a preferred urban area, a particular city, etc.
Type	10				The college/university is gender-specific, liberal arts college, etc.
Size	10				There is an acceptable teacher/student ratio. It is a preferred large or small school.
Reputation	10				I like what the college is known for. I like what is said about the college or university.
Academic Program	10				I am aware of the known departments or areas of study. I know the strong departments or programs.
Career Resources	10				There is job shadowing, possible internship opportunities, scholarships, study abroad programs, etc.
Extra Curricular Activities	10				I like the extra curricular activities offered at this college or university (band, sports, etc.).
Cost	10				The overall tuition or costs are known or within an acceptable range. I can afford to go there. There is a likelihood of my receiving scholarships and grants, etc.
Gut Feeling	10				I like the gut feeling I got when I visited the college/university.

