

### *“How I Got Here: Joseph—Student-focused Video”*

Joseph: Hello everyone, my name is Joseph. I am a junior Music Education major at Houston Tillotson University. I am Mr. Houston Tillotson University, an ambassador of the university. I play piano. I sing and I play trombone in the jazz band. Music, for me, is exploring what's possible. It is an adventure if you think about it.

Growing up, I always considered going to college. My father was a train engineer. My mother, she's been teaching for 36 years. My father passed when I was a senior in high school. Of course, I was feeling down when everything happened but I turned what most people would take as an excuse into motivation to continue and to do better.

When it came time to consider college, I knew that I wanted to go but I didn't know what college would be the perfect fit. I looked at Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston State. I thought I would go to Texas A & M because my mother was an alumni, but I decided to come to HT because it felt right for me.

Our student body is less than 1,000. Classes are small. I really thrive in this atmosphere because there is this sense of community.

How you doing sir?

Speaker 3: Hey there. How are you doing?

Joseph: Would you walk over here with me? I have a question for you. I have some questions for you. What would you say drew you to HT?

Speaker 3: It's right here in Austin in the middle of downtown.

Speaker 4: Great living quarters.

Speaker 5: The scholarship opportunities.

Speaker 3: Just the support system.

Speaker 4: Family feel.

Speaker 3: Family atmosphere.

Speaker 6: I like the small campus and how beautiful it was. That's really how I came about HT.

Joseph: We have a lot in common, sir.

For those of you who are worried about finding the right college, some things that I would say would be go out there and look. Don't be afraid to view college campuses. Have an open mind and make sure that you're visiting for yourself. You need to take in

the atmosphere. Make sure that this is somewhere that you can see yourself spending four plus years at.

I suggest that you visit a class in a subject that you may be majoring in. Get a feel for how the teacher teaches. It's important to find the right place where you can discover what you want to be, discover what you want to do and, most importantly, discover who you are.

If your personality is like this, you wouldn't be happy in some place like this.

I have the privilege of being a big fish in a small pond. Here I am, getting ready to graduate. The right college is out there for you. Don't be afraid to get out there and look for it. It's out there.