

**THIS IS ONEIDA  
FROM ALL F's AND POTENTIAL DROP-OUT TO OBI FIRST LADY**

I was recently away from campus for a couple of days and received a phone call from Angie. She told me our youngest son, Alex, asked her if she was the president when dad is away. She told him she helped out when I was away, and Alex promptly responded by saying she should cancel school the following day. Alex often amuses and sometimes even bewilders us with the things he says and does. Were it not for Oneida, this amusing little boy would not exist today. The Lord used the people of Oneida to save Angie's life, and now He is using Angie to save the lives of others. Angie obviously did not cancel school, but we both had a good chuckle about what Alex had requested.

When Angie arrived at Oneida as a sixth-grade student, she had all F's on her report card. Challenges at home had led to missed school which led to poor grades. Angie went on to be valedictorian of Oneida and her college. That college, by the way, was the one she followed me to.

Our principal recently told our student body he knew they were glad to be back in school at Oneida after their spring break. The students grumbled, but I believe they understood his point about enjoying being with their friends. Many, if not most, kids grumble and complain about school. Even though kids complain about school, they do seem to enjoy the socialization involved with school. The high school dropout rate in the United States has fallen to an all-time low at 7%. In 2000 there was a 12% drop-out rate, but today's 7% still represents 2.2 million young people dropping out.

I have wondered how many more kids would have dropped out of school had they not found Oneida. Many of our kids come with academic challenges. Most are very capable, but need some extra direction and attention to fulfill their potential. Many come with other challenges, some of which are social. Being educated at Oneida is a great spiritual, academic, social experience. This all amounts to an education for time and eternity.

Come and meet Angie, OBI's first lady; Alex, my nine-year-old, and all the other students who are living and learning in this little place called Oneida. Perhaps you know of a young man or young lady who needs to be told about our school, so that they, too, can come and reach their full potential. Maybe your advice or information could save them from dropping out of school and a life of unnecessary difficulties. I promise if you send someone here, Angie or I won't cancel school on a whim or at the request of Alex.



**Larry A. Gritton, Jr.  
OBI President**

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