

## A Note for You, to Say Thank You



Chapman, Maxine <Maxine.Chapman@warnerbros.com>

Today, 12:47 PM

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Hi all,

If you're reading this, it's for a few reasons. First, I have some news to share— exciting news about my career. I want to share it with you, here in this space, because you have played some kind of role in helping me get to this point. I recently accepted a full-time position as a Publicity Assistant at Warner Bros. Television, where I will be assisting Leshelle Sargent and Katie Tisherman, both Directors of Publicity at WBTV. This is an extremely exciting time for me, as I could not imagine a better place to begin my entertainment PR career. I love TV and PR; sounds like a perfect combination to me. Grateful for the opportunity is an understatement!

Second, I want to take time to say *thank you* to each and every one on this email. Some of you I have known for over a decade, others have recently come into my life in the past few years. Regardless of where you fall on that spectrum, I find it necessary to pay homage and express my gratitude to you all for the love, light and lessons you've shared with me on my journey thus far.

I must personally call out several folks:

First and foremost, **Ms. Vonda Paige**, you have been a guiding example to me since I was 13 years-old. I met you as a young girl at the Tavis Smiley Leadership Institute – bright-eyed, full of life and exploding with ideas of how I was determined to “Lead. Love. Save. And Serve.” I have never stopped carrying those lessons you taught me. A true mentor you have been. I am totally grateful that you were told about this position at Warner Bros., and found enough confidence in me to recommend me personally for the position. You continued to remind me, “What’s for me, is mine,” and if it wasn’t for your encouragement to take a leap of faith coupled with your wisdom and guidance through this process, I wouldn’t be here. A mere thank you is not enough.

**Mrs. Eniko Bolivar-Murphy**, thank you. I walked into Weber Shandwick with zero experience in public relations. I was always a decent writer, but knew nothing about the other side of journalism. You took me under your wing on the ALDI account and gave me a true shot to learn from a brilliant public relations professional. I thank you for being a mentor and true example of what senior leadership should look like. From you, I learned to always super proof, that a fresh set of eyes can only help,

to be confident in my voice (because my ideas are valuable), and to dress to impress – you never know who is watching, so be on your P’s and Q’s. All these lessons I will carry with me in my new position. Thank you!

To my three favorite Howard professors, Ms. **Jennifer Thomas**, Ms. **Yanick Rice Lamb** and Mr. **Reginald Miles**, thank you for tough love. Only now that I have been in the “real world” and outside the “Howard bubble” am I beginning to understand some of the gems of wisdom you dropped into my spirit. Howard Excellence and nothing less will be accepted. Thank you for setting that standard.

To my entire Tavis Smiley Foundation (TSF) family, including my big sis’ **Kimberly McFarland** and **Mr. Tavis Smiley**, thank you for validating my voice and teaching me the importance of servant leadership – a lesson that keeps me grounded and humbled, daily.

The lovely Maya Angelou said it best, “*Nobody, but nobody, can make it our here alone,*” and I live my life with that mantra in mind. I am truly the product of my village. And as I embark on this new journey, I vow to carry with me the lessons from my past while remaining open to the many ones still to be learned. I vow to honor the women and men who came before me to pave the way for me to be afforded an opportunity like this, and make them and you all proud.

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All the best,  
Maxine

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