We're back for the final piece of our conversation with Lauren Sefton, Associate Director of Admission for Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. And in this portion of our conversation, we're hoping to get a little information and maybe a little advice from Lauren as well. So currently about 5% of Rhodes undergraduate students are international. Does the college want to see that number increase, decrease, stay the same. And why? >> Uh-huh. We would love to see it increase to about 10% over the next several years. We really believe in a diversity of thought and diversity of opinions on our campus. We have a national campus, national student body with 48 different states represented in the US. And we have 18 different countries represented by our international students. We'd love to see an even more global perspective. We understand the importance of having a global perspective going through your four years of college at Rhodes, which is why 65% of our students study abroad at least once. But being able to bring that global perspective truly into every classroom and every residence hall is really valuable. So we'd love to see it increase even more. >> We've emphasized with our students that this course is about the admission process and not about the financial aid process. But could you briefly talk about Rhodes' financial aid policy for international students? >> Mm-hm. I think it's important to talk about it, because it does affect the admission process. Rhodes is need-aware. We are not need-blind for international applicants, and we make that very clear on our website. It's very detailed with information about our financial aid and admission policy for international applicants, and so it is a factor in our admission decision. I mentioned that we would love to be able to admit all of our academically admissible international students. But we simply don't have the resources and capability of doing so. And in order to obtain your visa to, to get an education in the U.S., you have to prove that you have the funding, the, the financial support to do so. And Rhodes is unable to financially fully fund international students to the extent that we'd like to right now. So while we do offer scholarships to international students, we are need-aware in our admission process. >> Lauren, you've mentioned that you've been doing this for 11 years now. So you have a lot of experience in the world of admission. In your experience, is there a common mistake that international students make during the application process? And do you have any advice on how they can fix it? >> Mm-hm. There are two that I see, and they're not just an, just related to international applicants. But I see it year after year with our international applicants. And the first is that they don't share enough information with us in the admission process. That they don't explain anomalies on their transcript, or for some students, we may not have ever seen an application from that particular high school, [CROSSTALK] or maybe even that country. And so the more information the student can share with us [CROSSTALK] about their cultural experiences, about their academic experiences so that we can place their application into a, into context, the more helpful it is. And so I think students really should not be afraid to share too much information in the admission process. We can filter out the things that, that we don't need to factor in. But leave us to do the filtering as opposed to, to being shy on the front end. And then I think another thing to be cognizant of are the deadlines. Every college or university in the U.S. has a different deadline. And we know that makes the process very complicated. So my best advice is to stay organized. One of the things that Rhodes students who are successful have, is good time management skills. And you have to be organized in order to have good time management skills. So show us that on the front end by being organized and making sure that not only your application but all supporting documents are submitted by
the deadline, and keep track. Because every college or university that you're applying to will have a
different process and a different set of deadlines. And it's important for you to stay on top of all of
those. >> Finally, even outside of the admission process, is there a piece of advice that you would like to
share with the international students taking this course and watching this interview? >> Uh-huh. I think
this process is so exciting. It really is. It can, it can truly be fun. I know it feels very stressful but it can be
fun. And for students who are being thoughtful and deliberate in their college search, the process will
end up well. You will have a college home. If you are doing your research and being thoughtful and
mindful of your needs and your interests, and the college needs and interests, you'll find a college home.
But I think it's important from an international perspective to cast a pretty wide net. Figure out what
pieces are really important to you. Why are you going to college? What do you hope to gain from those
experiences? Focus on those, but you'll find there are over 4,000 colleges and universities in the US. So
you can find multiple colleges or universities that fit the criteria that you're looking for. And so I think,
especially because you may not have the chance to visit and have that opportunity for a gut reaction
during a campus visit, that you should fall in like with a lot of colleges and universities. Don't just fall in
love with one college or university, but fall in like with many. Because I bet there are many that share
the qualities that you're looking for. >> Fantastic advice. Thank you. >> You're welcome. >> Well, Lauren
thank you for being with us today, for taking the time to come and put up with all of these questions for,
from us. And students, we'll be posting information about how to connect with Lauren and Rhodes
College on the course site. [BLANK_AUDIO]