

PROFILE IN SUCCESS

We would like to congratulate Jared Shanholtzer on his recent graduation from Academy College with an A.A.S. in Aviation Business. Jared's success while attending Academy and after was of good measure, and he would like to share his story.

Sarah LaRose | Student Affairs Coordinator

Moving Towards A Brighter Future

by Jared Shanholtzer, October 2011

To the graduates of Academy College for the year 2011, I would like to say thank you and say congratulations. We have succeeded. All of us never gave up and looked to each other for help with no exception. Every person has had a role in the development of another's education. Let our influences and knowledge inspire the generations to follow, that it is possible to succeed no matter what. The faculty here at Academy College was always behind each of us trying to push our expectations for ourselves and in doing so have made us into the people we are today. On behalf of the graduating class I would like to say thanks to the entire faculty for their hard work and endurance through the years we have spent at Academy College.

It did not matter to the faculty if a student was going for their bachelor's or associate's degree or certificate. The teachers were there then and will be there for us in the future. With regards to the future it is what we make of it. Do not be afraid to come back to Academy College and ask for assistance in finding employment. Even networking with students, current and graduates is another informative way to find employment or career opportunities. The people we have met here will forever change our lives. Each of my classmates and faculty members I have met I consider my friends. During my time here, interacting with the students and with the faculty became easier and more relaxing.

There is one graduate, that I can personally thank for my current employment at Integrated Deicing Services(IDS). He is currently part of the corporate office for IDS. I was fortunate to have him in just a single class. I asked him where he worked and how could I interview to be part of the team. I was given the number for the Human Resources at IDS and called. It is astounding how a single conversation and one phone call can turn into an opportunity like no other. This shows how important it is to take every opportunity to ask questions of students for, you may find yourself working with them.

Academy College is a place of learning and also a place to be yourself, whether it is a person who uses lime green in Flash Macromedia or a quiet artist sitting in the back of the room. We all were treated as an individual and we were helped on a singular level instead of a class. Every graduate has his or her own learning style and the faculty at Academy College are very sensitive to that fact and offer times for direct one on one interaction with the students through the week.

The teachers were always open to suggestions and any question that was on our minds. All we as the students needed to do was ask a single question and the answer could inspire another student to ask about another topic which in turn integrates the entire class into a communal discussion in the class. With this capacity for understanding and teaching capability each and every student and teacher is able to better teach and learn from one another.

The faculty wants to help us succeed. This has been visible in how each teacher is concerned for each and every student. Our backgrounds did not matter to any of the faculty and I for one am very grateful. Let us not be afraid to say hi to the faculty of Academy College from time to time. The faculty and the student body are all people. Some of the graduates may leave Minneapolis for greater opportunities and others will be content with staying in the surrounding area. Go where you will be the happiest for every day from here on.

As we transition from education into or back into work, or career, let us remember everything we have learned here at Academy College. We have accomplished and completed our goal in receiving our degrees or certificates tonight. We have gained more education and understanding, however, we as people will always gain greater wisdom throughout our lives. Wisdom is gained through time and the use of our education and surpassing the challenges placed in our path.

Let us welcome new challenges from this day forward because the more challenges we are introduced with the stronger we will become. The challenges we face will open countless doors to better possibilities. Let us overcome these challenges head on. We may have completed our education at Academy College but we will never stop learning.

I would just like to say one more time. Thank you to every graduate and every faculty member. This ceremony is possible in thanks to every faculty member and student doing their part. We now have a great foundation for a better future. Let us not waste this opportunity our education has bestowed upon us. It has been an honor and a pleasure being able to spend these last two years in your company. In closing I would like to add that this education cannot be summed up in the grades we earned but in the education that we received. And let us leave here tonight with some words from William Earnest Henley's "Invictus",

*I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.*

Thank you.