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“GET OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE” BETTY BROWN

... HONOR STUDENT ... FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR
... FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHER
... MICHIGAN CITY SUCCESS STORY

Elizabeth “Betty” Brown says Michigan City High School transformed her from a shy teen into a confident high school teacher who has traveled the world.

SAY WHAT? When Betty began taking Japanese as a freshman at MCHS, her classmates couldn’t hear her. “I had debilitating social anxiety. Even though Japanese was a fun class, there was lots of speaking.” Her teacher (sensei), Mike Tsugawa, turned her anxiety into fun, giving her a megaphone to use during class. “By the end of sophomore year, I didn’t need it. We had a huge celebration! Sensei showed me that my thoughts and words were powerful and worthy of sharing.”

PASSING IT ON: Today, Betty is a Japanese teacher herself, at the Arkansas School for Mathematics, Sciences and the Arts. “If I can change one student’s life the way Sensei did for me, then it’s worth it.”

TOP SCHOLAR: Betty entered college with 31 credits, thanks to AP courses and the fact that she tested out of Japanese and German. She received scholarships to cover her tuition at Ball State University, and studied in Japan her junior year. After graduating from college in 2016, she received a Fulbright grant to teach English as a Second Language in Germany.

ALL IN: At MCHS, Betty participated in several theater, science, and foreign language clubs. “City exposed me to people from different walks of life. I made so many friends, and I traveled to Japan and Germany and hosted students from those countries in my home. It opened up my entire world.”

SECRET TO SUCCESS: “Do things that make you uncomfortable. You may find your passion.”



Did you know?

MCHS Japanese Teacher Mike Tsugawa was the Indiana Foreign Language Teacher of the Year in 2016.

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