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“NEVER, EVER QUIT.” Azayah Hunter

... STUDENT FIREFIGHTER
... CAPTAIN, ATHLETE, & MUSICIAN
... MICHIGAN CITY SUCCESS STORY

Once considered an at-risk youth, Azayah Hunter has beaten the odds by focusing his energy in positive ways. Now, the sky's the limit for this Michigan City High School junior.

MAN ON FIRE: Azayah wowed La Porte County fire chiefs during the same interview process licensed firefighters experience. He was chosen as student captain, overseeing his peers in the Fire Science program at the A.K. Smith Career Center. When he graduates in 2018, Azayah will have Firefighter I, Firefighter II, and Hazmat Awareness certifications and an EMT license. “This program is all about overcoming obstacles. It’s really helped me develop leadership skills.”



POSITIVE FOCUS: In elementary school, Azayah was bullied and struggled academically. Then, he took up karate and was placed in a special class for at-risk youth at Elston Middle School. This helped him manage his ADHD and taught him to focus his energy in a positive way. “My teachers gave me confidence. They didn’t quit on me, and I didn’t quit on myself.”

ALL IN: Azayah is on the MCHS Wrestling, Soccer and Track teams, plays drums in the marching band, and volunteers at the Washington Park Zoo. He’s also a volunteer for the Michigan City Fire Department. He hopes to attend North Carolina A&T State to major in computer science, a desire sparked after he aced a programming class at MCHS.

SECRET TO SUCCESS: “Never decide something is too hard. I tell that to my crew in firefighter training. I want someone who’s going to go in there with me, and come out with me.”

Did you know?

The Fire Science program at A. K. Smith is now in its second year. Its enrollment has already tripled!

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