



# SUCCESS STORIES

## from Michigan City Area Schools

### SUCCESS begins with Michael Mellen

...ENGINEER

...TEACHING ASSISTANT

...MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS SUCCESS STORY

Michael Mellen, a 2009 Purdue University graduate with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, spent this past summer as a teaching assistant for Michigan City Area Schools summer school. His focus was helping high-achieving elementary and middle school students learn to program robots and build simple machines.

**SCHOOL DAYS:** Michael attended Joy Elementary, Barker Middle School, Michigan City Jr. High, and Michigan City High School. "I owe a lot to my teachers. They helped me realize I didn't have to just think inside the box all the time. I try to carry this over into everything I do. Think outside the box, and learn outside the box."

**FUTURE PLANS:** Michael is headed back to Purdue University this fall, to begin graduate studies in engineering. "Long-term, I'd like to focus on designing automated controls and improving things through electronics."

**SECRET TO SUCCESS:** "One of the students I met in summer school was nervous about taking some high-level math. I told her she should definitely go for it. Never be afraid to challenge yourself. That's how you're going to find out what you really love doing."



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