

SUCCESS STORIES

from Michigan City Area Schools

SUCCESS begins with Austin Sims

... NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR

... FUTURE CHEMIST

...MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS SUCCESS STORY

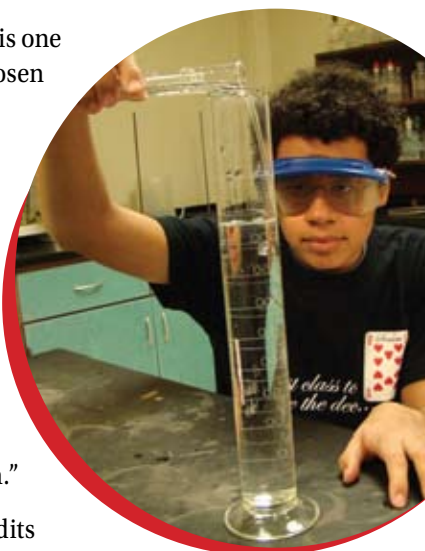
Austin Sims is crazy about chemistry. "Everything is chemistry," he explains. "And if it's not chemistry, it's physics!" He's also crazy about Quiz Bowl and the JETS engineering team...and marching, pep, and jazz band.

TOPS IN THE NATION: A Michigan City High School senior, Austin attended Marsh Elementary, and both Krueger and Elston Middle Schools. He was named a "commended student" in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program, and is one of only 1,600 Black high school seniors to be chosen as a semifinalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program - based on his high PSAT score.

SCIENCE MINDED: Austin will graduate with 24 college credits, which he has earned through advanced placement and dual-credit courses. "I enjoy helping people understand things, and I want to make a contribution to science," he says. "I can see myself teaching at the university level one day, and also involved in renewable energy research."

UP FOR A CHALLENGE: Austin credits teachers like Mark Marz, Rich Lenard, and Christy Shriey with helping him succeed. "Some people think intelligent kids can coast through school. But I beg to differ. There are many challenging AP courses at our high school, and we have excellent teachers who push you to learn to your highest potential."

SECRET TO SUCCESS: "I hold myself to a high personal standard. What's acceptable work for someone else might not be acceptable for me. I tend to set my sights *very* high."



*This success story
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