



SUCCESS STORIES

from Michigan City Area Schools

SUCCESS begins with Heather Colvin

... HONOR STUDENT
... WELDER

... MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS SUCCESS STORY

Heather Colvin is a lot like most teenage girls – she loves shopping and makeup and anything hot pink. So why did she spend her prom dress money on a welding helmet covered in flames and skulls? “I’ll just wear the same dress I wore last year, maybe spice it up a little,” she laughs. “Some people are all tomboy or all prep. I’m both. I like being different.”

WELDING WONDER: Heather attended Springfield Elementary, Krueger Middle School, and Michigan City Jr. High, and is now a 4.0 senior at Michigan City High School. She spends her afternoons at the A. K. Smith Area Career Center, where she has taken classes in power mechanics and is a top student in welding. Later this month, she’ll compete at a state-level welding contest. “Welding is exciting and more challenging than any of my other classes,” she says.



FAMILY TRADITION: Heather’s great-grandfather, grandfather, and father are all welders and stock car racers, and Heather says she’d like to try racing one day, too. But life isn’t all about welding and stock cars. She also loves to sing, and performs with the MCHS Treble Chorale. “I attended night school so I could letter in chorus,” she says. “I owe a lot to my welding and chorus teachers. They’ve helped me reach very different personal goals.”

GIRL POWER: After Heather graduates in June, she will begin an apprenticeship with Chicago Pipefitters Local 597, and she also plans to pursue an engineering degree at Ferris State University. “I love being a girl in a male-dominated field,” she says.

SECRET TO SUCCESS:

“Try your hardest. And don’t ever let anyone intimidate you.”



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