



SUCCESS STORIES

from Michigan City Area Schools

SUCCESS begins with Darius Johnson

...ARTIST

...2009 HONORS GRADUATE

...MICHIGAN CITY AREA SCHOOLS SUCCESS STORY

Darius Johnson has a reputation – for excellence. A 2009 Michigan City High School honors graduate, he was Captain of the football team, a French Club member, and a standout on the track team, competing in shot put and discus. A participant in Leadership Laporte County's youth program, he traveled to Europe his junior year as part of a People to People exchange. But his greatest claim to fame is his artwork: His striking pastels, sketches, spray-paintings, and scratch-board drawings earned him Best in Show at the South Shore Art Show in 2008 and 2009, and his work has been featured in several exhibits, including the Congressional Art Show in South Bend.

SCHOOL DAYS: Darius attended Edgewood Elementary, Barker Middle School, and MCHS. "In kindergarten, I was definitely one of those kids who colored outside the lines," he admits. "But I've always been good at drawing what I see." By eighth grade, Darius' parents enrolled him in a class at the Lubeznik Center, where artist Jeff Ham helped him perfect his technique. "In high school I took every art class offered," he says. "My art teachers were wonderful, pushing me and helping me build on my strengths, even orchestrating my shows."



CREATIVE LEADER: Darius is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Columbia College in Chicago, majoring in Advertising and Art Direction. "I'd really enjoy heading up a team of artists, working to put something together through illustration and design."

SECRET TO SUCCESS: "Find something you like that you can focus on, and don't let anything else get in the way. If you have a positive attitude, you *will* have a positive outcome!"

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