

A Builder's Design

What do wood, nails, and a drill help construct? A house that can protect and help build memories for many families and future generations. An architect is unable to construct an entire house without first knowing measurements, building a foundation, or even knowing the type of house he is planning on building. In other words, in order to make dreams a reality, you must design small goals that will serve as a foundation for your life-long accomplishments. I already know what I want to be in the future and I already have a blueprint of how I will reach my goal.

Visualizing my future helps motivate me and keeps me committed to my goals. For me to succeed, I must know where I want to go before I can start. My long-term goal is to have a master's degree in criminal justice, work as a police officer and eventually become an FBI agent. My degree in criminal justice from St. Mary's will be the foundation upon which I will build everything else. My bachelor's degree is just the beginning. I hope to graduate from college with as few loans as possible. I plan to join ROTC or the National Guard after graduating from St. Mary's to help me reach my goal.

Ever since eighth grade, while a student at San Miguel Middle School of Minneapolis, I was chosen to be a part of the Countdown to College program. Ever since, I have been motivated to succeed in high school. The experiences I encountered at St. Mary's have aided me in seeking a better lifestyle than what my family has. I plan to be the first high school and college graduate in my family. Edina High School is academically rigorous and my experience has taught me to be a dedicated, consistent student. I have learned to be organized, advocate for myself, engage in activities, and be the best I can be.

The experience that I hope gain in the ROTC or the National Guard will help me accomplish my next long-term goal of getting hired in the St. Paul Police department (because of their professional reputation). As a police officer, I hope to gain enough knowledge and have enough experience to be able to join the Narcotics unit. From my childhood to my teen years, drugs have been destroying my country, Mexico. I will go into the Narcotics unit with the sharp mind of a professional, a committed heart of an affected Mexican citizen, and a strong will to stop all drug dealers and smugglers in order to keep my community safe and healthy. I have always cared about the people in my community, and I want to give back. I hope to be known for starting my own organization that helps those in need.

After graduating college, I plan to save enough money to buy a house. At this juncture, my education will be the foundation for my life. The house will be the first level that will surround me and keep me and my future family safe. In the blueprint I initially created, purchasing a house is the main level of my building. Not only will this home give me shelter, but also, it will be a representation of how far my efforts have taken me. The final building block I need is a roof over my head. This must be something that will protect me in good and bad weather. My final long-term goal is to find a wife with whom to share my achievements with and also someone I can offer all that I have, thanks to the opportunity St. Mary's gave me.

Before I initiate any project, specific tools must be obtained and techniques must be used in order to help me begin constructing. My main short-term goal that takes priority is to earn the FGI scholarship. This scholarship will be one of my greatest achievements in life. In order for me to achieve this goal I must complete the entire requirement to qualify

for the scholarship. Most importantly, I must have faith in myself and have in mind that no matter what, I will graduate high school and I will graduate from a 4-year college.

After high school graduation, I plan to work at both of my jobs, Sears and WSI Sports, in order to save money for college. Also, I hope to spend as much time with my family as I can because when I go to college I will no longer see them everyday. I will continue volunteering at Habitat for Humanity on every building day this summer. Right now going to college is the most important part of my blueprint that I need to reach my goals.

A construction worker needs tools to aid in his work, but he also needs a tool belt to help carry all of those tools. College is my tool belt and I will place all of high school skills in that belt to help me graduate from college. During my first year in college I plan on taking all my general courses and getting an A or better in all of my classes. Also, I hope to get involved in St. Mary's clubs or sports. Not only will this be fun, but also it will help me socialize and find friends to create study groups with. In these study groups, I will get the help I need and I will also be able to help any classmates that are struggling.

I have my design and I have started to build it. I hope God gives me the grit and energy to accomplish the various personal goals I have set. If, I get the FGI scholarship I will leave my legacy at St. Mary's and even if I don't get the scholarship, my legacy will still be left behind in the college I attend.