

DAVID WELP

Motivated: A Fresh Face in the Classroom

Graduate: Class of 2006 Occupation: Secondary Math Education
By Grant Welp, Spring 2010

“Take today to prepare for tomorrow. Take this week to prepare for next week. Take this month to prepare for next month. Take this year to prepare for next year,” advises David Welp, to his students at Apollo High School in Owensboro, Kentucky. A student teacher at Apollo, David teaches geometry and multiple levels of algebra. Currently completing his years at Kentucky Wesleyan, David is receiving a degree in secondary math education and a minor in mathematics. David must have the ability to inspire, communicate, motivate and understand students' educational and emotional needs. On a typical day, he starts by arriving at school at 7:15 a.m. and prepares his environment in the classroom. He then teaches from 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. and also helps the Apollo baseball team after school. Balancing a few college courses and his student-teacher activities is time-consuming and challenging.

Prior to his success in college, David accomplished a lifetime goal by winning back-to-back high school state basketball championships as a junior and senior in 2005 and 2006. David continued his success at the next level in both athletics and academics by receiving a scholarship to play baseball, and he was honored to the dean's list in the school years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. Giving credit for his academic success to interest level, David believes that college motivated him more because the courses he chose complemented the field he was pursuing.

Going from high school to college is definitely a difficult transition; however, it also has its rewards according to David. “You become more responsible and grow up quickly,” he says, “with no one there to tell you what to do and when to do it.” David believes that the surprising aspect of free time in college helps you grow in one main area: maturity.

When asked about the influence of “book smarts” compared to work experience, David replied, “Work experience is more important than 'book smarts' because you have a new experience every day that can't be taught in the classroom, but 'book smarts' are needed to teach the material to the students.”

Now in his last year of college, David continues to have success in the classroom - only this time he will work to further educate other minds as well as his own. With most of the challenging training behind him, he sweats out the toughest part of finding the right school and the best place for him. As brother and friend, David has set an example of work ethic and success. I have no doubt that he will be able to educate and motivate his future students.