

“CRIME AND PUNISHMENT”

PARALEGAL GRADUATE HELPS TO KEEP LOCAL TEENS ON THE RIGHT PATH

Christopher Watkins, a 2004 Brown Mackie College – Michigan City Paralegal graduate, has witnessed the ups and downs of the lives of adults who have been in trouble with the law. While attending the college, through an externship with the LaPorte Superior Court, located in Michigan City, Indiana, Watkins assisted chief probation officers by writing pre-sentence investigation reports, interviewing offenders, and documenting activities of each offender during felony criminal court sessions.



Watkins is determined to make an impact in the legal field and he makes constant strides to reach his current goal of becoming a lawyer. Before gaining some valuable work experience as a probation officer, Watkins made sure he received the proper education needed to advance in the legal field. He enrolled in the Paralegal associate’s degree program at Brown Mackie College — Michigan City, and also participated in the externship. “The classes were small and the fact that I only had to take one class once a month made it easy to fit classes into my working schedule,” explains Watkins.

The education that Watkins received while enrolled at Brown Mackie College – Michigan City proved to be very practical. “I do a lot of writing at my current job as a juvenile probation officer, and the writing classes I took in the Paralegal associate’s degree program were very useful,” states Watkins.

During his time spent working with the LaPorte Superior Court, Watkins realized something had to be done to decrease the number of offenders and repeat offenders in the system. Watkins worked alongside a judge in assisting a court monitored drug rehabilitation program for adult offenders. However, Watkins believed that much more had to be done to decrease the number of offenders, and decided to work with troubled juveniles. He became a juvenile probation officer with the Michigan City Court House in an effort to encourage juvenile offenders to stay

out of trouble. “Adult court and juvenile court are two very different worlds. I want to help stop juvenile offenders from becoming adult offenders,” says Watkins. “They need someone to follow and my main goal is to provide them with some form of mentorship,” Watkins continues.

The next step for Watkins is attending law school and reaching his goal of becoming a criminal lawyer. He hopes to start a mentoring program in the future aimed at keeping inner city kids out of trouble and on the path to success. “I came to realize that Brown Mackie College – Michigan City gave me the tools to do what I’m doing. It is up to me to exert myself and to continue to strive towards my goal,” says Watkins.

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