



News Release

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Century College Scholarship Winner Is Hopeful About Future, Despite Challenges

Century College scholarship winner Jacob Andros, 30, of St. Paul, a former construction worker, decided nursing might be his chosen field after witnessing a bloody accident in 2006.

While others recoiled after seeing a child seriously injure his leg, Andros reacted in such a professional manner, a relative who happened to be a nurse asked him, “Have you ever thought about the medical field? You look like a natural.”

One thing led to another, and Andros started at Century in January 2007. This fall, Andros not only won a scholarship from the Century College Foundation, but he also was accepted into the nursing program starting next semester. Eventually, he would like to earn a four-year degree and specialize in nursing anesthesia.

“Having a goal is everything,” said Andros, who, with his wife, often reminds their daughter of this fact. “You do what you have to do so you can do what you want to do. Yes, it’s tough. But the payoff will be huge.”

Andros currently is the epitome of a busy student. In addition to attending Century full time with almost perfect grades, he also works half time at Fairview-University Medical Center as a nursing assistant, and maintains his life as a married father of one - and soon, two - young children.

A typical day means rising at 5:30 a.m., attending class and staying to study until 2 p.m., then picking his daughter up from school and assisting with her homework while he works his second, at-home job until dinner. During the evenings he works at the hospital, he stops by home after class to catch a quick lunch and then works from 3 to 11:30 p.m.

He spends as much time with his family during the week as he can, often visiting his wife while she works on Friday nights, but he looks forward to sharing more quality time on the weekends. In addition, he often spends time with his mom, who is fighting lung cancer.

“Life can be complicated and hard,” said Andros. “Getting a scholarship really helps. Getting \$500 or \$1,000 may not sound like a lot, but I appreciate all I am given to make this transition a little easier for my family.”

After he becomes a nurse, Andros has another goal: traveling to third-world countries to build houses for people and also help them with their health care. “Contributing good only brings more good,” said Andros. “God has been generous to me and now I want to be generous to other people.”

Andros is aware that despite how busy he is, this has been a wonderful time of growth in his life. “When my wife and I take walks with our daughter, she wants to stop and look at every leaf. It makes you realize that it’s not about finishing the walk, it’s about appreciating the time together.”

Photo (below): Century College student Jacob Andros

