

Living out faith through service

Christy Gelback discusses the role service has played in her life.

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Transcript

[C. Gelback] My biggest motivation is probably living out my faith through just serving others. There's so many great opportunities at IUPUI and in the community to go get involved. The nonprofit organizations have been extremely supportive of engaging students and letting them apply what they learned in the classroom.

It's amazing to see so many students from IUPUI actually out in the community to make a difference. The Fugate Scholars I work with the fifth graders at IPS 49 implementing college access activities and just getting them to think about different careers and higher education.

I guess this is a really big honor to receive, and I'm really excited about being recognized for work just hopefully to raise awareness in the community about the need to work with underprivileged youth and the need for higher education. I guess just follow your dreams and your passion. Whatever you're passion about there is definitely somewhere to connect whether on campus or in the nonprofit community within downtown Indianapolis.

Don't be afraid of trying new things. When I went to College Mentors I had no experience writing grants or annual fund letters or anything in that regard. but just don't be afraid to try new things.

[L. Feldman] Christy has had three different roles here at College Mentors for Kids. We do an after school mentoring program for at-risk elementary school children. She's been on the indirect side of that service provision. She's worked in our office as a work-study student as a part of Team Works Community Work Study Program, then last summer as an intern working with me in fundraising, and finally as our Team Works Team Leader this school year. She has contributed in a variety of ways. We are so excited here at College Mentors For Kids to have Christy receive the Plater Medallion. It's part of our mission at College Mentors For Kids not only to touch the lives of at-risk elementary school children, but to provide college students learning opportunities. That's what this is recognizing for Christy. She's been an incredible person to work with and really self-directed in identifying projects that will complement her major and then seeing how she can make an impact here.