

ARCHBISHOP MAY SERVICE AWARD WINNERS – *Where Are They Now?*

MICHAEL BUSCHE – 2012 awardee

1. Was there a key influence at Duchesne that prompted you to be so interested and involved in service? Please give specifics if possible.

My older brothers, Jacob and Josh, inspired me to get involved in service. They were both members of Key Club, so I grew up watching them spend their nights and weekends volunteering around in community. I was eager to follow in their footsteps and began volunteering with the club my freshman year. This helped me develop a passion for service that has remained with me to this day.

2. Have you continued to be involved in service in your life after Duchesne? Please give a few examples, if possible.

I have continued to serve my community after graduating from Duchesne. I attended Purdue University for undergrad where I volunteered through Purdue Student Government, the Student Supreme Court, and our community standards board. While at Purdue I helped establish its first student legal service, a program that provides students with access to an attorney free of charge. I began graduate school at the University of California - Berkeley in 2016 where I have continued to student-centered volunteer work. This past year I served as a mentor for Planting Science, a national organization that pairs plant scientists with high school students to carry out plant-focused research projects.

3. We know you've done a lot for others; what do you feel you've gained in the time you've spent in the service of others? What have you taken away from the experience(s)?

The time I have spent in the service of others has taught me a lot about myself. It has helped me develop a passion for teaching and education and allowed me to share that with others. Service has also helped me realize how privileged I am, and it has helped me use those privileges to improve the lives of others. Most importantly, I think that my service experiences have helped me developed a deep sense of empathy for the people that I serve. This has ultimately changed the way that I think and act in my everyday life.

I've attached a picture of me in a greenhouse with sorghum, a heat and drought tolerant cereal crop that I did research on in undergrad.

