

THE WILLIAM WHITE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Individual students who successfully complete the program will be entered to win awesome prizes. The drawing for prizes will occur monthly and students will be contacted via email if they have won a prize. Prizes will be mailed to students' on-campus or Laramie address.

Participation guidelines:

1. Students will select and attend or complete a minimum of 2 activities every month (September, October, November) from the lists of activities provided.
 - The more activities a student completes, the more chances of winning they will earn.
2. Students will complete the online form to indicate which activities they completed.
 - Students can complete the form as many times as they like to record the activities they have done.
3. Students will be ready to discuss the activities they completed with their FYS class or peer mentor.

A little about WILLIAM WHITE

Will White was born in Iowa and spent most of his childhood in Mason City. He attended public school and home school to the age of 14, when he left home to begin working construction. After working construction in Iowa for a couple years, Will packed a duffle bag with all his belongings and took a one-way flight to Los Angeles to try his luck in California. Will worked a few odd jobs in Los Angeles, including working as a delivery driver and a lumber yard manager.

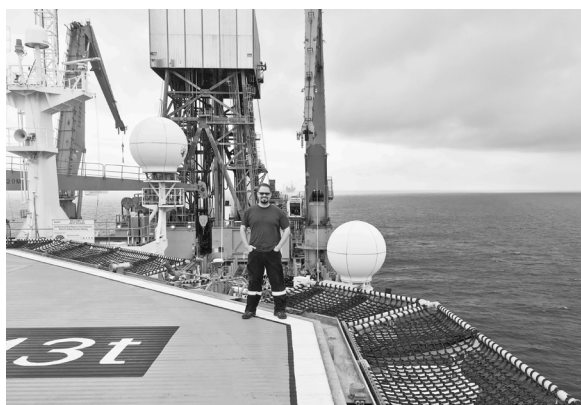
When Will was invited to visit Pinedale, WY, on a hunting trip with a biologist friend, he jumped at the chance. Will immediately fell in love with Wyoming and spent much of the hunting trip asking his friend questions about the trees, animals, rocks, and history of Wyoming. Along the way, they met a Wyoming geologist who inspired Will to think about geology as a career path.

Back in LA, Will decided he wanted to pursue a better life and find out what he was capable of. He and his friend came up with a plan. Will would move to Wyoming, find a job in the oil field, and save money until he could start college at the University of Wyoming. He would study Geology and someday find work as a geologist. Will gave two weeks' notice at the lumber yard, packed up everything he owned, and bought a truck. He drove to Pinedale, lived in the geologist's garage loft, and began traveling from oil rig to oil rig, knocking on doors and asking for a job. Finally, he was hired to work for one of the oldest rigs in Wyoming.

From 2006-2007, Will earned a high wage and often took home hundreds of dollars in bonuses each day. He never lost his dream of going to college and would occasionally drive to Laramie on his days off to spend time walking around the UW campus. In the summer of 2007, he finally paid a visit to the Admissions Office. After talking with Will and hearing about his experiences and college goals, the Admissions director decided to admit Will as a freshman in Fall 2007.

Will joined the Bridge program his first year at UW. "The Bridge program was one of the most important parts of my first year," says Will. "The Bridge teachers cared a lot and wanted to help me succeed."

In his first semester, he visited the Geology department and walked through the hallways to find out who taught in the department. "If I saw someone in their office, I introduced myself," Will says. "I asked them to explain what they did, what their specialty



was." Some of the professors spent time getting to know Will and later became key resources for him.

"I am pretty introverted, but I made it a goal to get to know people in the department," he says. "I visited office hours; I never turned in a paper or big assignment that wasn't reviewed by the professor at least once."

After confiding to a Bridge instructor about some struggles he was having with homework, his instructor recommended that Will seek out testing for learning obstacles. He did what the teacher suggested and discovered after testing that he struggled with a processing issue that was impeding his learning. "I found out that I have a very high IQ but my processing skills were low," Will says. "It was a huge help just to find out there was a reason I was having trouble in some of my classes."

When Will was an upperclassman, ExxonMobil came to UW looking for undergraduates to intern at the company. The members of the Geology program recommended Will for an interview. "I found out at the last minute about the interview and showed up in a \$2 Kmart shirt and jeans," Will says. The recruiter offered Will a three-month internship beginning in January 2013. As Will completed his internship, his mentor quit her job. Will took advantage of the opportunity to take charge of the internship and prove his dependability. "It was tough at first," Will says. He had no official training and had to find people to teach him what he needed to do the job well.

Will says, "I knew from my college classes and working in the Geology program how to figure things out and get the job done...I had built a great work ethic." Now, Will travels the world working as an operations geologist for ExxonMobil. The William White Engagement Program is an extension of Will's goal to help new UW students succeed in their first year at college.

WILL'S TEN TIPS FOR YOUR FIRST YEAR

1. You first year is important...don't slack off. Go to class, stay caught up!
2. Know that you have to put in the effort to learn.
3. Use the resources that are available...Supplemental Instruction (SI), STEP tutoring, office hours.
4. Find a good study method; it might take you a while.
5. Schedule your classes with an hour in between each class so you have time to look at your notes and study a bit.
6. Treat school like a job...it is easier than working 12 hours a day on a rig!
7. Get to know your professors; go to office hours.
8. Find a community that will help you and that you can help... find friends that help you succeed in college.
9. Get along with people even if they are not like you.
10. If you are the smartest person in the room you are in the wrong room. Push yourself and learn.

Scan this QR code to hear tips and stories from Will himself.

