

CONGRATULATIONS 2020 GRADUATES!

**SPAN PLAN CELEBRATES
PASSION, COURAGE, PERSISTENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS**



BENJAMIN PATRICK

**Athletic Training &
Medical Humanities Certificate**

BEST STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Being recognized as an "Outstanding HHS Student" for my mentoring of incoming freshmen to the Pre-Athletic Training program and having posters and banners of myself throughout campus buildings and websites

MOST CHALLENGING

Giving up my 'adult' life and committing 100% to my full-time college coursework. It was a constant push and pull, but I kept reminding myself why I came back to pursue a degree at Purdue and would reflect on all of the progress and positive changes that I was making thanks to my growing knowledge and educational experience. I would also say that just taking the risk to return to school was challenging in itself. When I left Purdue over 10 years prior, I was failing at almost everything. I was afraid that I just gave up my job, my home, my life, to return to college and that I wasn't going to be able to succeed. The student I am today is a stark difference than the student I was.

NEXT UP

I am attending Indiana University to pursue my Master's in a post-professional Athletic training program and working as a Graduate Assistant in Sports medicine with Indiana Athletics.

WORDS OF ADVICE

What I thought would be my weakness (my age) turned out to be my greatest strength. Having the maturity and perspective that innately comes with being a nontraditional student is an invaluable asset to any degree program and can really set you up to be a great leader. Additionally, I expected there to be a huge rift between me and my classmates (15 years younger), but the difference in age quickly vanished and I now feel more equipped and capable to work with and relate to a broader breadth of patients and coworkers.



**Span Plan Nontraditional
Student Services**

www.purdue.edu/spanplan