

Dear Matt Stager Memorial Scholarship Committee,

I would first and foremost like to thank you for selecting me to be a recipient of the Matt Stager Memorial Scholarship, it is truly an honor. I recently graduated from Tremont High School in Tremont, Illinois where I was a Cum Laude graduate and top twenty in my class. It was a great four years and though I am sad it's over, I am excited for the next chapter.

In the fall I will attend Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) and earn a bachelor's degree. After I graduate I hope to work five years at an engineering firm, pass my engineering test, and become a professional engineer. I hope to focus my work on environmental engineering in the future to help make the earth a cleaner, healthier place to live.

While in high school, I was a four year participant and senior captain in baseball and basketball as a Tremont Turk, earning a varsity letter for three of those four years in both. I love sports and will continue to compete after high school. I'm also an avid hunter, fisherman, and outdoorsman and I love to spend time either fishing for a variety of fish, hunting a variety of game, or spending time around a campfire with my friends. In the summers, I spent a number of hours volunteering at our local "Turkey Festival," where I did anything from separating turkey hearts and livers to making strawberry shortcake for the community to enjoy.

Again, I am truly blessed to have been awarded such a prestigious scholarship in memory of Matt Stager. I plan to use my reward to help follow my dreams of earning a degree in engineering so that I can make the world a better place!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryne Wirtjes". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ryne Wirtjes