

FCC 2006 Alumnus Jordan Wiles Finds Gratification as School Psychologist

Frontier Community College alumnus Jordan Wiles finds fulfillment in working with children who have a higher need than many others. Wiles is a School Psychologist with the Rural Champaign Special Education Cooperative in Rantoul, Illinois. He is part of an Individual Education Program team that gathers information to determine if a child qualifies for special education and helps develop a plan to address their needs in areas that include academics, motor, and social delays.

“I believe that addressing problems early can help teach children how to improve their deficits and work with their disabilities to become stronger and more successful adults,” stated Wiles. Evaluations may include cognitive assessments, a look at emotional and behavioral concerns, and measures of adaptive function. Assessments begin as early as pre-school screenings and up through high school.

Wiles chose this field because he loved psychology and loved working with children. It was during his junior year in college and job shadowing in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation that he found his passion and decided to pursue a career as a child psychologist. During graduate school, he completed an internship with the Wabash and Ohio Valley Special Education District (WOVSED) and upon completion was offered a full-time position as a Child Psychologist.

Wiles has a unique ability to work with children and families to help them understand the complexities of special education and the benefits. He knows how to talk with them and put them at ease. Many of the children come from single households where a father isn't present. Wiles understands that he can be a role model to many of the children and takes it seriously. “It is incredibly rewarding identifying how I can best help children with delays and seeing them succeed with the plan specifically set for them.”

Future plans are to receive a Special Education Administration certificate and ideally work as a Special Education Coordinator or Director.

The Fairfield native received a Specialist in School Psychology in May of 2012. He holds a Master's degree in Child Clinical and School Psychology from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville that he completed in December 2010. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 2009 from Southern Indiana University in Evansville.

A 2007 graduate of Frontier Community College (FCC), Wiles chose to start his college education at FCC because it was close to home, it was affordable, and it was on par with the education that many of his friends were receiving at a university. Wiles noted he liked the benefit of smaller classes and the one-on-one help from his instructors.

“College is the first step towards becoming your own person by exploring what interests you and what you want to do with a large chunk of your life,” stated Wiles. “Frontier, or any community college, is a fantastic choice because it gives students a minimum of two years to save money, take a variety of classes to explore their interests, stay home a little longer and decide what best suits them, not what others tell them they should do.”

During his year at Frontier Community College, Wiles played an active role in student activities serving as Captain of the College Bowl Team, a Student Ambassador, and the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Chapter President. He especially enjoyed the multiple service projects with PTK which allowed him to give back to the community. On the regional level, he received an award for Distinguished Chapter President, selected to the All-Illinois Academic Team, and went on to serve as the Illinois Regional President for a year. On the national level, he was the first student at Frontier Community College to be selected to the All-USA Academic Team. At graduation, Wiles was presented with the President's Award based on outstanding academic rigor and grade point averages; participation in honors programs; awards, and recognition for academic achievement, and service to the college and community.

