

# CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE

## 2013 Alumni Leadership Awards

### Travis M. Mears '06

#### Roger H. Perry Alumni Award



**Travis Mears** graduated from Champlain in 2006 with degrees in Public Relations, Media Communications, and Liberal Studies. He was an involved student from day one, serving as a Resident Assistant, Senior Resident Assistant, Admissions Tour Guide, and Technical Assistant. During his senior year, Travis was asked to aid in the creation and development of the Student Government Association. Participating in these roles throughout his experience at Champlain helped him discern that his calling after graduation was to make an impact in the world of higher education and help students develop leadership skills.

As a student, Travis learned to communicate and engage with diverse audiences, he was challenged to put himself in the shoes of others to understand how they hear and see the world around them. He learned very quickly to never run away from the “bad press,” but rather to confront it head on. Now as a student affairs administrator, Travis uses these two lessons to challenge students to think critically about the world around them, to maintain an open mind as they hear the stories of others, and to encourage authenticity every step of the way through their journeys of personal growth and development to becoming well-rounded global citizens.

Travis fondly remembers his first communications class, Mass Media & Society, with Professor and Program Director, Nancy Kerr. The passion in her voice for her craft inspired Travis to find his own passion. That day, he changed his major to Public Relations. Champlain instilled in Travis a drive and passion to never settle and to always push the boundaries to do bigger and better things.

Originally from Bennington, VT, Travis now resides in Tacoma, WA. He has spent the past four months sailing to 16 cities in 12 different countries around the world as the Living Learning Coordinator/Resident Director for Semester at Sea. Travis isn’t sure what path he will take once he concludes his role with Semester at Sea, but he is sure that he’ll be positively impacting student success in higher education for years to come.



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