Baily Abbot, A MAN WITH A PLAN

Baily Abbot is a freshman at the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in Technical Education and Engineering. Baily is a guy who has everything planned out, even his plans after college.

“I hope to go back to my high school and teach. I have planned it out that one of my teacher plans on retiring when I graduate. Ha ha. I have this really planned out. If I don’t get the teaching job I would go into the industry, a management position. My dream job is teaching and having the ability to teach what I want.”

Baily took a lot of shop classes when he was in high school. “I decided to try out an internship within my high school where I would be a teacher’s aide and that is when my teacher mentioned that I should look into teaching technology and engineering. It was my teacher in my senior year that helped choose my major.”

Baily ended up doing his internship for the school and helped assist his teacher in the classroom. “It progressed into me teaching whole classes and planning lessons. I actually changed the tech ed program at my high school. I would take some of their projects and change them up and offer a new project. If you aren’t working to move forward you are always falling behind. I want to be able to give a student information and have them give it back to me in depth.”

The University of Northern Iowa was at the top of Baily’s list when it came time for him to plan out his future. “I always knew that if I was going to go to college, UNI was going to be in my top three. And once I had decided to become a teacher it just made sense to go to UNI. Plus UNI is one of the few colleges that has my program and you can’t beat the affordability compared to the other colleges in Iowa. I really like the size of UNI as well. UNI is like a hidden gem everyone sees UNI like a smaller school but there is so much more to it. Plus, UNI has the biggest metal casting center and 3D printer, which is really cool.”

Even though this is Baily’s first semester at UNI he already has a favorite course, “Intro to Technology Education, the intro class to my major. It is not like your average class. It is like a discussion and lab in one. We aren’t just sitting and listening to someone talk for an hour. It is fun and I really like the hands on interactions.”

Baily is enrolled in 18 credits this year and also works in IT and is one of the UNI STEM Ambassadors. “I really like the jobs I have, they both offer flexible hours. I am also part of TEECA (Technical Educational Engineering Collegiate Association). My role is treasurer. In the club we compete in TEECA events nationwide. We compete with robotics and lesson plans. It all has to do with teaching technology.”

In his free time, he enjoys hanging out with his new friends he met in his dorm and watching Game of Thrones. When he finds the chance to get home, Baily also is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys fishing and hunting.
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-Baily Abbot

His advice to a future panther is:

“Make sure you love it, because the four letters STEM stands for are usually the four classes everyone struggles with so if you don’t love you are going to hate it. If you plan on going into the STEM field in general definitely choose UNI. Yea Iowa State is known for their engineering program, but engineering is only one part of STEM. UNI is able to offer all parts of STEM in some way. Make sure you love it. And be proactive about everything. Don’t get behind.”

“I was really proactive with planning my future. Don’t get overwhelmed. I have learned this early, the minute you start thinking about how much you have to do you get overwhelmed, but the minute you ask yourself what you have to do next that is when you are able to manage. When you look at the mountain you think how are you going to climb that, but if you focus on the first step it is not that bad. I am really looking forward to my years to come at UNI.”

With his ‘go for it’ attitude and future plans Baily Abbott is sure to go far!