

NEWS from

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

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Austin Weekly News

Chicago Native Discovers New Pathways at Saint Mary's – Inspires Creative Impact

WINONA, Minn. — With deep ties to the Austin District's art and culture, Kijuan Hardy paves the way as a first generation college student at Saint Mary's and opens up the realm of possibilities for graffiti art and content creation.

Kijuan Hardy is painting a bright future for himself and his hometown while studying at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. Starting college as a first-generation student, Hardy had little knowledge about what he wanted to pursue. Now, he is headed towards the exciting world of Public Relations and Digital Media. He has embraced campus life by using his artistic storytelling skills to highlight his peers, and has recently joined the Track and Field Team, approaching both with excitement and dedication.

One of the most important aspects of Kijuan's success has been the campus culture. When starting as a freshman he was admittedly quiet and soft-spoken. Despite this, he states that the "FGI community came at me with open arms. They wanted to help me even when I was quiet." Professors were also able to see Hardy's potential from the very beginning and assisted him in securing an internship with HBC. During this internship, Kijuan learned how to operate high-tech cameras and equipment—inspiring him to pursue photography and videography in the near future.

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In one of his Public Relations classes, Hardy reflects on an opportunity he had to interview another Chicago native, Ricky Palermo, who is a TV producer for the Minnesota Twins. “I think he was an inspiration because seeing someone from the same area and same school showed me that if he can do it then I can do it.” Hardy hopes to also be an inspiration to others, and strives to tell stories through different digital media forms.

While he enjoyed capturing the nail-biting sports moments, Hardy wants to pursue a combination of wildlife photography and street style art after graduation. Clearly having a sense of wonder for the world around him, he specifically wants to return home and share the narrative of the Boys and Girls Club that he grew up in. He would like to make a documentary to depict what was “one of the best times of [his] life.”

To explore Kijuan Hardy’s life at Saint Mary’s, [CLICK HERE](#) to visit his blog, where he shares his artwork and brief stories about his fellow peers.

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Saint Mary's...2

Reading Score

44.05

Reading Score

44.05

Grade Level Score

13.34

Characters

2397

Words

401

Sentences

16

Syllables

651