

# LET'S GET TO WORK

Launching youth with disabilities  
into the workforce



Alex

Alex is a student at the Edgewood College Cutting Edge following his dream of studying theatre and fine arts. Attending college courses allows Alex to learn “all the things that [he] wanted to learn when [he] was in high school.” Alex’s love of art and theatre lead him to start his own business, Inspiring Art by Alex.com as well as a non-profit called Alex Haunty’s Theatre and Arts Fund, Inc., which provides tickets for shows at the Overture Center for people with disabilities. In 2015, Alex received the Outstanding Young Philanthropist Award from the Greater Madison Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals WI.



## EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

His entire life Alex heard his sibling talking about going to college; when he was 14, he saw a newspaper article about Cutting Edge and knew that’s where he wanted to be after graduation. After exiting from high school he worked at several jobs that he really liked, but he still had a strong desire to go to college. A year later he was accepted to Cutting Edge and became a commuter student; in the fall of 2016 he will live on campus in the residence hall. Since Alex was so focused on going to college after high school, he worked really hard and took Read 180 every semester to improve his reading skills. He also took 2 math classes. At Edgewood each semester Alex has taken a course in the art or theatre department as well as the required Cutting Edge courses. Supports that have helped him to be successful are a note-taker and peer mentors and a course coach to help with homework.



To Alex college is different from high school in so many ways: in college there’s no study hall so you have to find time to do homework on your own; in college the class schedule is on Blackboard and you have to check it often; sometimes professors don’t show up and cancel class; and sometimes you’re supposed to do work in a group and its hard to keep up with that. In spite of the challenges, Alex loves being an Edgewood student. He says, “I do feel part of college life at Edgewood and what parts of college I enjoy are the CAB events that they have. I like going to the volleyball games and seeing my friend Liz and Jenna play. I like having peer mentors and I like making friends to hang out with.”

Alex’s goal is to earn a Cutting Edge Certificate of Completion and after he finishes and has more time on his hands, he’d like to take up piano lessons again and expand his non-profit. He’d also like to work on a cruise ship doing theatre shows or working at the Overture Center designing and building sets and/or working in the office booking shows. Alex is well on his way to making his dreams come true!

***“I like having peer mentors and I like making friends to hang out with..” - Alex***