



News Release

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Century Student Wins National *Achieving the Dream* Contest

Century College student Levi Miller of Lake Elmo has won the national *Achieving the Dream* t-shirt design competition.

He will be awarded \$1,000 and will have 1,000 meals donated to the charity of his choice. In addition, 1,000 shirts will be printed with his design and distributed at the national *Achieving the Dream* annual meeting in Dallas on Feb. 28. The shirt also will be available for sale more broadly through the website of the apparel firm You and Who. For every shirt that is sold, Miller will receive \$1 and a meal will be donated to charity.

Miller's design was chosen from among 93 entries from 19 colleges in 10 different states. Winners were judged on creativity, originality and demonstration of the theme about college completion. Final

selections were made by *Achieving the Dream* staff, coaches, data coaches and the design team at You and Who.

“I decided to build the word DREAM out of other words that are related to it,” said Miller, 21, a student in the Visual Communication Technologies program at Century. “They are all action words like Act, Discover, Imagine and Envision.”

Underneath the word DREAM is the sentence “FINISH WHAT YOU START” in smaller capital letters. The design is white, printed on a black t-shirt. “It is meant to be high impact, but simple,” said Miller.

Nicole Melander of *Achieving the Dream* said this is the organization’s first t-shirt contest, and the first time the group has done a contest of any kind with students. “There is a tremendous pool of talent among community college students,” said Melander. “*Achieving the Dream*’s DREAM Big for College T-Shirt Design Contest is the start of a much larger DREAM Big campaign that will provide community college students with many opportunities to shine on a national platform and engage in the national discussion about college completion, all while earning money to help offset the cost of college.”

Miller, who was home-schooled for elementary and high school, said his goal is to graduate from Century in 2013, earn a bachelor’s degree at a four-year college and then, eventually, own his own graphic design or web design business.

Achieving the Dream is a nation-wide network of 160 two-year colleges committed to helping students, particularly low-income students and students of color, stay in school and earn a college certificate or degree. *Achieving the Dream* colleges use data to identify gaps in student performance, and then implement strategies to close those achievement gaps.

Century is the only *Achieving the Dream* college in Minnesota.



Photo: Levi Miller