

Where Are They Now?

What is your name?

Bret Turner

Where do you currently live?

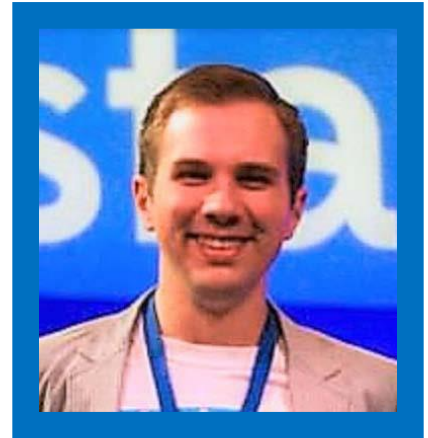
I live in Denver, CO

What year did you graduate from Brookville High School?

I graduated in 2011

Did you attend and graduate from the Miami Valley Career Technology Center (CTC)?

No



What is your current Occupation?

I am a Hazardous Materials Specialist at the University of Colorado Denver/ Anschutz Medical Campus. My job is to collect all waste hazardous materials from the research laboratories, educational buildings and medical practices on campus. Once I receive the chemicals, I treat them as necessary so that they are safe to handle and are no longer a danger to people. Then, I make sure that they are properly packaged and shipped to be destroyed in a way that will not harm the environment. In addition to that, I inspect the laboratory areas for compliance with EPA laws and respond to emergency chemical spills/releases when necessary.

What was your post high school education or training?

I went to Penn State University where I received my Bachelor of Science in Environmental Resource Management. While I was there, I worked in a few research labs and completed two theses projects. Now I am receiving continuing training/education through my work for things like Department of Transportation compliance and HAZMAT emergency response. I soon hope to begin working towards my Master's degree here at the University of Colorado.

What was your favorite high school course?

I would say English with Ms. Wolfe or Chemistry with Mrs. Davis. English was great because it exposed me to many things I would have never been exposed to on my own, and chemistry because it helped get me interested in the field I am in today.

What do today's students need to know?

Here are my three best pieces of advice for post-high school life:

- 1) Always try to push yourself to do things outside of your comfort zone. Moving far away for college or a job or the service will be scary, traveling to new places will be scary, and meeting new people will be scary; but I have never regretted doing something out of my comfort zone in college or adult life. Some of the best things to ever happen to me have been a result of that.
- 2) Do not compare yourself to others. The past in life or choices your friend or coworker is making might work fantastically for them. Those same things might be disastrous for you, and that is okay! Everyone is different. It does not mean that something is wrong with you.
- 3) Don't sweat the small stuff. Something that will not matter in a few weeks, months, or years, should not stress you out or ruin your day if you can help it.

