



PEOPLE

you should know



Mr. Edward "EJ" Monster - 2024 Inductee



Edward J. (E.J.) Monster moved to Dansville when he was in 7th grade. While attending Dansville High School (DHS), E.J. excelled in the classroom as a National Honor Society member and graduated as the Class of 1995 salutatorian. He volunteered at school through the Student Council and in the community at Noyes Hospital. He also worked at the Dansville Public Library. E.J. was the first student at DHS to study both French and Spanish and spent a summer abroad in the Netherlands through the Dansville Foreign Exchange Program, leading to many of his post-secondary endeavors.

After graduating from DHS, E.J. attended Nazareth University continuing his studies in French and Spanish. He graduated magna cum laude and received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach at the University of Ghent in Belgium. He then earned a prestigious Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship to study at George Washington University where he pursued a Master's degree in International

Relations. In 2002, E.J. began his career as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State. In 2024, he was promoted to the rank of Counselor in the Senior Foreign Service.

Over his diplomatic career, E.J. has traveled the world engaging foreign audiences to further U.S. interests. He has served at the U.S. Embassy in Malawi, South Africa, Bolivia, Poland, and Kenya. In Washington, DC, he has completed assignments at the U.S. Department of State and as a Duty Officer in the White House Situation Room where he briefed the President and senior U.S. Government leaders. A continuous learner, in 2019, E.J. earned a second Master's degree in National Security Strategy at the National War College for U.S. military and civilian leaders.

E.J. speaks highly of the education he received in Dansville, the community he grew up in, and the people who supported, motivated, and shaped him. Past educators speak highly of his accomplishments as a DHS student, noting his commitment to academic excellence and strong interpersonal skills.

E.J. has maintained his Dansville relationships over the past quarter century, even inviting past teachers to visit him on his international and DC assignments. Though he regularly moves around the world for his work, E.J. hasn't forgotten the people and experiences from Dansville that provided a solid academic and moral foundation for his future endeavors. He proudly calls Dansville his hometown.