

Neary and Popko Scholarship



Brian Neary and Ryan Popko became friends on the first day of kindergarten at Franklin Avenue Elementary School in September 1986. They have remained friends ever since, and this scholarship is a testament to that friendship. They both received CSF scholarships all four years of their undergraduate studies and they are very grateful for the help they received. In their words, “We want other Westfield resident students to have the same educational opportunities and bright futures that we had.”

Ryan Popko graduated from Westfield High School in 1999 and he was proud to be captain of the soccer team and the track team during his senior year. At Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Ryan concentrated on his engineering studies, but he did find time to play intramural football, soccer and hockey. He earned his B.S. in Environmental Engineering from RPI in 2003, and immediately began his graduate studies at UMASS Amherst. Ryan was awarded his M.S. in Environmental Engineering in May 2005. He specializes in water treatment and is currently an environmental engineer for JEA, a utility provider in Jacksonville, Florida. Ryan Popko, P.E. is assigned to water and wastewater projects.

Brian Neary lettered in football, hockey and baseball at Northfield Mount Hermon School and he was captain of all three teams during his senior year. After graduating from NMH in 1999, Brian attended Skidmore College where he majored in business management. He played hockey and baseball for Skidmore, and earned his B.S. degree in 2003. Brian is a senior manager in health care consulting for Ernst & Young, LLP in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is currently working on a project with a national health insurance client. Brian’s consulting focus is on health insurance, operations, regulatory compliance, and process improvements.

Brian Neary and Ryan Popko are now successful professionals, but they never forgot how CSF of Westfield helped them. In 2009, they decided to combine their donations and establish this scholarship for a scholar athlete who will be attending a private college. These two friends are proud to help another Westfield student with this scholarship.

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