

Strongsville grad getting ahead by running a business as a college student

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Strongsville grad Mike Lamorgese gives one homeowner an estimate in the snow.



One Strongsville High School graduate is taking advantage of an internship opportunity that puts him in charge of his own painting business.

Mike Lamorgese is a sophomore at the University of Dayton where he studies Leadership and Marketing. This semester, he's balancing classes and extracurricular activities with running his own business.

"I was good at managing my time before but now I use my time like no other," Lamorgese said. "I do my best to stay active, get enough sleep and do well in class."

Student Painters is an organization that helps college students earn money and learn business skills by allowing them to manage their own branch of the business in their hometown.

"It offers a great learning experience because I will gain real world experience that I cannot receive in a classroom environment at Dayton," he said. "The company provides me with all the necessary resources I need, then turns me into a business owner."

Lamorgese learned about the program from a classmate who also participated in the program. After several interviews, Lamorgese was chosen to begin the training process in November of 2011.

Lamorgese does not get the semester off while running his business. He takes calls during the week and gives customers estimates on the weekends.

"I don't see it as giving up time but more as getting ahead of everyone else this summer. The experience and rewards I receive will be well worth it," he said.

Lamorgese's next step will be to hire Sherwin Williams certified painters to complete about 15 jobs worth a total of about \$25,000 in sales. Lamorgese has already done several estimates. His company will begin work on homes in early summer.

For an free estimate from Lamorgese and Student Painters, call (440) 554-9911. Although cost varies from house to house, Lamorgese charges about \$1,500 to paint the trim of a house and about \$3,000 to paint an entire house.

Lamorgese plans to graduate in May of 2014. He hopes to begin his professional career in sales and eventually open his own business. "I want to take pride in whatever business I own," he said.