



Family expectations sometimes are positive and sometimes just the opposite. For Jason, going to college was a given, as far as his family was concerned, but he had no desire to go. He did enroll in college after high school, but had no motivation to make use of the opportunity and flunked out. Moving forward, he did get a good paying job, met his wife and started a family. He had convinced himself that college wasn't necessary at all.

That conviction and the weight of his early decision came crashing down 15 years later when he was laid off from his job.

Finding another job was an obvious option, but Jason and his wife instead decided that the easiest path isn't always the best. He stated, "Staying afloat by doing just enough to get by isn't a good enough goal. We wanted to set higher goals and show our kids that sacrifice and hard work is needed to achieve those goals."

Jason enrolled in Ivy Tech to earn a degree in accounting and Sara, a stay at home mom, went to work to provide financial support for the family. Jason wanted to prepare for a job he would enjoy but he adds, "That alone did not do me, my family or the world justice. For too long I have not given my best. I have done just enough to get by. I don't want to be the example that teaches people what not to do. I want to be the one that people look to for confirmation that anything can be achieved."

Jason has always balanced his work with family life, volunteering in the sports where his kids were involved – coaching, umpiring and running scoreboards. Since he has been in college he has earned an IRS tax certificate and has found satisfaction preparing free federal and state tax returns for clients in the Ivy Tech Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Office. This service aligns with his belief that when he gives his best, it makes the world better.

For the past year Jason has been able to draw unemployment insurance to help pay college expenses but now he is no longer eligible. He is grateful that the Rotary scholarship will enable him to focus on a full course load without sacrificing his role with the family.