



Alumni Spotlight

Ethan Poetic '20



Ethan Poetic '20 was born in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, and moved to Lancaster in the middle of his eighth-grade year. On March 19, 2011, he was seriously injured when a tractor-trailer collided with his vehicle on Lincoln Highway East (Route 30) in Paradise Township in Lancaster County. This moment put his life on pause and forced him to fight a ruptured aorta, internal bleeding, a concussion, a fractured collarbone and a sprained wrist. The accident would also cause a delay in Poetic's pursuit of higher education as his health became his main priority.

After a long road of recovery, Poetic was offered a job at the School District of Lancaster after-school sports program and was accepted as a student at Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC). He then went on to attend Millersville University because of their communications department, affordable tuition, safe campus, and for the flexibility that allowed him to work two jobs while taking classes. Poetic was welcomed with open arms at Millersville after transferring from HACC. He got along with the students, staff, professors and public safety personnel. The library became an incredibly useful resource, providing him with access to technology. Poetic's math and writing tutors helped shape his academic career for the better. Although he longed to be more involved on campus, his financial responsibilities took precedence.

Poetic graduated from Millersville University with a Bachelor of Science degree in speech communications, with a minor in broadcasting and media. He also holds an associate degree from HACC. Poetic is the only member of his family to graduate twice with a post-secondary degree. He is proud to have been featured on the front page of the LNP Lancaster Newspaper in April of 2021 and on WGAL as an inspirational story in May of 2021.

He states that all of his college professors made a positive impact on his life. Specifically, Dr. Theresa Russell-Loretz left an immensely positive influence on Poetic by presenting him with the Department Chair's Special Recognition Award for overcoming adversities and challenges. Poetic says that Millersville University helped him grow as a man and as a leader. "Being around other college students and professors allowed me to see certain areas I needed help with, such as seeking help from both writing and math tutors," he says. Resources at Millersville helped Poetic to successfully complete two television internships at Lancaster Community TV Channel 66 (LCTV 66).

Currently, Poetic is a tutor for Substitute Teacher Services and is in the process of starting his own business of Ethan A. Poetic LLC, which includes keynote speaking, corporate speaking engagements, poetry workshops and serving as a mental health advocate. To connect with Poetic, he may be contacted on LinkedIn at [Ethan Poetic](#).