

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

Campus News Archive

Campus News, Newsletters, and Events

6-23-2011

Ben Lacy '09 receives Duke of Edinburgh's Award Young Americans' Challenge

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news

Recommended Citation

University Relations, "Ben Lacy '09 receives Duke of Edinburgh's Award Young Americans' Challenge" (2011). *Campus News Archive*. 660.

https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/660

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Campus News, Newsletters, and Events at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in Campus News Archive by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact skulann@morris.umn.edu.

Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

Ben Lacy '09 receives Duke of Edinburgh's Award Young Americans' Challenge

Summary: Lacy was one of two Eagle Scouts to receive the award established in 1956 but given for the first time in the United States.

(June 23, 2011)-The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) National Capital Area Council in Washington, D.C., has announced that University of Minnesota, Morris alumnus Ben Lacy '09 is one of two Scouts to receive the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Young Americans' Challenge, the first time awarded in the United States. The award is given through a Duke of Edinburgh's Awards national partnership with the BSA.

Lacy received his award with fellow Scout Matt Merighi. The young men were honored at a Capitol Hill reception attended by the Duke of Edinburgh's son, His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex.

Founded in 1956 by Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II's husband, His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Edinburgh Award was designed with the mission to positively influence the lives of youth. The award is dedicated to achievement through its four objectives: community service, physical fitness, special skills, and adventurous journey. Youth and young adults between the ages of 14 and 25 are eligible.

"The partnership between the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Scouting is a natural fit, and granting this award for the first time marks what will surely be a long and successful partnership," said Josh Randle, Duke of Edinburgh's Award executive director. "These young men have worked hard to demonstrate their commitment to achievement and leadership."

Merighi (24) and Lacy (23) are both Eagle Scouts with a long-standing history in civic service. The pair worked separately in lockstep on the award, beginning the challenge with the intent of reconnecting with their passions for the outdoors and getting involved in their local community.

"Matt and Ben have both proved to be exemplary citizens and Scouts," said Les Baroo, Scout executive. "Their initiative, dedication, and achievement are commendable and deserving of such a high honor. These young men add to the distinction of our council by being the first two to achieve this award through Scouting in the United States."

The Award is available in three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Lacy and Merighi have been honored at the Bronze level. In fulfillment of the requirements, the two added to their daily exercise regimen, tried their hands at broomball, volunteered for various youth programs throughout the council, and planned a large-scale campout. For Lacy, this award holds a meaning of patriotism to two nations, as he holds dual citizenship in the United States and Bermuda, which is a British sovereign country.

"Earning this award has brought a great deal of enrichment to my daily life and provided an opportunity for me to become more involved in my community" said Lacy, a professional Scout. "I am honored to receive this distinction, and I have been working toward this day since the award requirements were released. Mati and I only wish the award was

available earlier, so we had time to achieve the gold level.”

Lacy, a native of Stillwater, earned a bachelor of arts in political science at the University of Minnesota, Morris. “I would like to sincerely thank Dr. Paula O’loughlin and many other faculty members for their encouragement through my time at Morris,” he states. “If it were not for their faith in me, and encouragement to move to D.C., for an internship, I would have never been in this position. Morris offers a lot of unique experiences to its students.”

Photo from left: His Royal Highness Prince Edward Earl of Wessex, Josh Randall Duke of Edinburgh Young Americans Challenge executive director, and Ben Lacy

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.