Success in the Classroom and on the Court

Student: Stephanie Peterson  
BSU Graduation: 2009  
Major: Chemistry  
Minor: Mathematics

Update: enrolled in Ph.D. pharmaceutical chemistry program, University of Kansas

Story Source
“Seniors to Watch;” HORIZONS, Spring/Summer 2009
Online: www.bemidjistate.edu/publications/horizons/

With a strong work ethic and focused drive, Stephanie Peterson typified the type of student who excels at Bemidji State. In her case, she found success in academics as well as a member of the BSU women’s NCAA Division II women’s basketball team.

Synopsis: Stephanie Peterson came to Bemidji State to play intercollegiate basketball and earn a degree in chemistry. As a student, Peterson learned to balance the demands placed on her as an athlete with those of the classroom, becoming a standout in both areas by the time she graduated. A member of the Honors Program, Peterson participated in a National Science Foundation summer research program, was active in student organizations and was named to Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. She also set BSU records as a starting center on the Beaver squad, was named a captain as a senior, and earned all-conference honorable mention honors. She feels her experiences as a student-athlete prepared her well for her advanced studies in pharmaceutical chemistry.
**Quote:** “I learned a lot about life from basketball. Life is a roller coaster with good times and bad times. Chemistry has taught me what I need to know and do in the discipline and research. My biggest lesson of all was confidence.”

**Applicable Points**
- Peterson came to BSU because she recognized student athletes can excel in the university’s academic and extracurricular environment. (driven; student directed)
- By applying herself on the court and in the classroom, she became a campus leader in both areas. (engaging)
- BSU enabled Peterson to take charge of her life at BSU, strengthening her confidence and self esteem. (rewarding; shaping potential)

**Messages for Key Audiences**
- **Prospective and Current Students:** the BSU environment is conducive for students to excel in multiple ways and in different venues
- **Current Students and Alumni:** BSU provides a quality undergraduate education that can lead to post graduate opportunities.
- **Faculty and Staff:** support of BSU students in activities beyond the classroom leads to personal growth on many levels.
- **External Stakeholders:** value of scholarship dollars for academics and extracurricular activities.