

# A LIFE *Transformed* Essay Project



## Jodi Latuszek, J.D. Class of 2001—First Place Life Transformed Essay Winner

*"Schoolcraft gave me the confidence to think bigger. Without my experience at Schoolcraft, it is unlikely that I would have followed my dream of becoming a lawyer." I wrote my essay because I wanted to tell other students*

*that you can get ahead—you can do everything you hope to. And no matter what you want to study and become, come to Schoolcraft. They will give you the foundation you need to be successful in college, and in life.*

### Jodi's Bio

Jodi gives Schoolcraft College credit for helping her to think bigger. Following graduation, she transferred to Michigan State University to pursue her dream of becoming a lawyer. She succeeded, when in the mid-2000's she earned her law degree from Cooley Law School. Jodi currently works for Child Welfare Services State Court Administrative Office. She has been named one of the Top 5 lawyers under 35 by the Ingham County Bar Association. Jodi resides in Saint Johns, MI.



Read Jodi's original essay below.



## Alumni and Friends

The Schoolcraft College Alumni Program exists to strengthen and maintain the ties between the college and its alumni. We recognize and celebrate alumni accomplishments and create opportunities for alumni to share in the growth and success of Schoolcraft College.



To learn more about our Alumni Program contact the Alumni Relations Office at 734-462-4501 or [vrexius@schoolcraft.edu](mailto:vrexius@schoolcraft.edu)

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## A J.D. for Jodi: Schoolcraft Laid the Foundation for a Legal Career

When I was in third grade, I loved to give speeches in front of class. I nominated myself for every class office and eventually even made it to "Board Eraser." My teacher, Mr. Hayman, said, "I bet you'll be a lawyer when you grow up." Being young and ignorant of my family's financial state and the resources required to obtain a legal degree, I replied, "I bet you're right."

In high school government class, I also enjoyed giving speeches and raising a ruckus. My teacher's response, "You would make a great lawyer." By that time, I wanted him to be right, but I was aware of my family's depressed financial condition. College, let alone law school, was an unlikely prospect.

My fortune changed when, in 1999-2000, I became the features editor of the Schoolcraft Connection. I would write articles ranging from fluffy holiday pieces, columns on noisy babies, to the 2000 presidential elections. In return, I received a scholarship for tuition. I earned enough credits to transfer to Michigan State University. More importantly, my experience at Schoolcraft gave me the confidence to think bigger. If it was possible to earn tuition doing what I loved, I knew it was also possible that I could be a lawyer.

Morphing that confidence with hard work, I graduated from Cooley Law School. In my first five years of practice, I briefed cases in the Michigan and United States Supreme Courts and was named one of the Top 5 lawyers under 35 by the Ingham County Bar Association.

Without my experience at Schoolcraft, it is unlikely that I would have followed my dream of becoming a lawyer. I would have succumbed to the mantra ingrained in my teenage brain, "only rich kids become lawyers." Now, I know that rich kids do become lawyers, but the poor kids who become lawyers may be more likely to lead lives rich with appreciation, gratitude, and fulfillment.

*Jodi (Langlois) Latuszek – Class of 2001*