From Wrightstown to Stanford and back: Pikturna plans to return for tech venture

By Brian Roebke
Editor

The Stanford Graduate School of Business believes a full economic resurgence in the Midwest must be led by leaders within the region, and that’s where Wrightstown High School graduate Andrew Pikturna comes in. A graduate student at Stanford University, Pikturna is committed to launching his own technology venture in the state upon graduation.

Stanford has initiated a fellowship program to provide full Graduate School of Business tuition for up to three aspiring leaders who are committed to returning to the region after graduation to help drive economic development and innovation. The other students are from Iowa and Missouri.

The school provides them up to $170,000 in tuition and fees to Wisconsin to work within two years of graduation. He must return to Wisconsin within two years of graduation in a professional role that helps to contribute to the region’s economic development. Pikturna wants to help by taking what he learns at Stanford and bring it back home as the world’s economy continues to evolve.

The son of Mark and Annie Pikturna, who live in the village of Wrightstown, graduated from WBS in 2009 and went to UW-Madison, graduating in 2013, where he served as a campus campaign coordinator for Teach For America.

He was attracted to Madison for its great undergraduate business program and the lively campus. “While I was there studying finance and marketing I tried to get a great skillset so that would set me up for a good paying job after graduation,” he said.

He began his career at the global management consulting and professional services firm Accenture, working in the Minneapolis and Chicago offices, and later became senior manager of operational analytics at the weekly meal delivery service Home Chef, which delivers three million meals to its subscribers every month. “I focused on helping the fulfillment team and on the operations team develop a really quality product and fulfill it in the most efficient way that we could,” he said.

He spent two years there and decided to apply to business school because he wanted to further develop his personal leadership ability. “While I was at Home Chef I had the privilege of having a team for the first time with three analysts, but I wanted to make sure I could be the best manager that I could be, so I wanted to use the experience of business school to make sure I was developing those great managerial skills,” he said. He also wanted to take that time to step back and understand where he wanted to take his career going forward so he could have the most impact on Wisconsin.

“That was always my goal to come back to my home state,” he said. Pikturna would love to contribute to Wisconsin’s future economic development through his interest in workforce development and how technology will affect that pretty optimistic and I would love to use technology to positively affect future economic prospects,” Pikturna said.

Wrightstown native Andrew Pikturna is looking forward to returning “home” following his graduation from Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business. His fellowship program requires him to return to Wisconsin to work within two years of graduation.
Republican candidates in top state Senate races outraise opponents

By WisPolitics.com

All but one of the Republican candidates in top state Senate races outraised their Democratic opponents for the home stretch of campaigning than their Democratic opponents in the November elections.

And that was in the far northwestern state race where incumbent Democrat Janet Bewley had the advantage.

Here’s the rundown in the state Senate money race. Republicans held an 18-15 edge over Democrats in the state Senate.

• GOP challenger Andre Andrej of Marinette outraised Democratic Sen. Caleb Frostman in their rematch for northeastern Wisconsin’s 1st Senate District.

Frostman, D-Sturgeon Bay, raised $36,492, spent $9,156 and had $491,520 in the bank. The SSDC gave her an in-kind donation of $1,818 for campaign supplies.

• Republican Sen. Roger Roth, of Appleton, raised $26,399, spent $20,160 and had $66,559 in the bank. The SSDC gave her an in-kind donation of $1,918 for campaign supplies.

• Republican Sen. Dale Kooyenga, who’s running for the open 23rd Senate District that includes Milwaukee’s western suburbs, raised $42,839, spent $16,339 and had $65,383 in the bank. He received a $7,844 in-kind donation from the state GOP.

• Democrat Julie Henszey, a corporate trainer and outdoor adventure guide, raised $32,463, spent $10,476 and had $63,383 in the bank. The SSDC made $6,569 in in-kind donations to her campaign for staff wages.

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