

RAINBOW CLIENT & WCC GRAD

Mitchell Anderson

Interview by **Kimberly Paetzold**, Editor
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Mitchell Anderson had an absolutely fabulous day on May 20, 2006—He accepted his diploma as he graduated from Washtenaw Community College with an associates degree. Not only did he collect his diploma, he graduated as part of the Honor Society. It hasn't been an easy road for Mitchell, but that hasn't stopped him.

On December 27, 1996, Mitchell was hit by a vehicle. The doctors did not expect him to live, and if he did live, they did not have high expectations for him. He was in a coma for eight days and in the hospital for two months. He recuperated at home and participated in some TBI rehabilitation before coming to Rainbow in 1999. Initially, Mitchell was very resistant to therapy and left Rainbow's program.



After a few years, he returned (2002) and that's when things turned around. Mitchell has been going to school and working hard. According to Mitchell, *"It's been a long time in the making, but nonetheless I'm not stopping. I haven't quit yet."*

Mitchell grew up in Minnesota and moved to Florida with his family when he was 17. When his mother remarried, the family relocated to Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mitchell, the oldest of six boys, is now

married and has an eight-year-old son named Dillon Michael.

Mitchell is part of Rainbow's Semi-Independent Living Program and lives in a Rainbow townhouse with roommates. Currently, he is working with Rainbow's Vocational Department looking for employment. When I asked Mitchell about his future career goals, he stated, *"I'm not really certain what I want to do just yet, but I would like to be an entrepreneur of some sort."*

Washtenaw Community College Campus



Mitchell's hobbies include: Writing, reading, listening to music and watching movies. He enjoys writing hip-hop lyrics, poetry and is a big baseball fan. He is ambitious, charismatic and innovative.

Mitchell said that Psychology was his favorite class, but his best subject is Math. His favorite math class was Mathematical Analysis. In the immediate future, he wants to attend Eastern Michigan or the University of Michigan to complete a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Masters Degree in Business Administration. He is thinking of majoring in business and minoring in Psychology. He said the most difficult thing about going to school was disciplining himself to do it. I asked him how he overcame that... Mitchell said, *"I finally just decided this is what I want and need, so I'm going to do it. Anytime I thought about doing less than what I should, I would say to myself-It's time to buckle down and take care of business! I made the decision and stuck to it."*

I asked Mitchell if he had any advice for others going through brain injury rehabilitation. He said, *"You can only take out of rehabilitation as much as you put into it. If you alter your perspective, you can gain a lot of insight. My perception of life and outlook has changed."*

Congratulations Mitchell! Everyone at Rainbow wishes you much success. Savor your achievement and continue working hard. We are proud of you! ♦

Pictured left:
Mitchell on the
Washtenaw
Community College
campus.

