

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Name: Kari Stake (Backus)

Year of Graduation: 2002

What have you done since graduating from Port Allegany High School?

After graduating from high school, I entered the workforce for a few years, working in the telecommunications field. I then earned my certification as a Certified Administrative Medical Assistant and worked in Endocrinology at Charles Cole. Working there led me to find my passion for nutrition. Most recently, I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Nutritional Science from Purdue Global University. I am currently working in the field as a Regional Manager for The Nutrition Group, which is a K-12 food service management company.

I am an active member of the community, serving previously on the S.W. Smith Library Board of Directors, and serving currently as the President of the Port Allegany Area Ambulance Service, swim team coordinator, and Recreational Authority board member.

I married my high school sweetheart and best friend, Jason Stake. We have two amazing children, Mikya (age 16) and Kason (age 10). My family means the world to me, and they have been the most amazing support system through my recent battle against breast cancer.

Where do you currently live?

Port Allegany

Who was your favorite teacher in high school? Why were they your favorite?

My favorite teacher was my co-op teacher, Risha Johnson (Seneca Highlands Career and Technical Center). She went above and beyond to show me how to become a better student and reliable employee. The things that I learned with Mrs. Johnson on co-op have impacted me in the career paths I have pursued.

What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School?

I have many cherished memories from high school; I cannot pick just one. The friendships and memories that I made in high school have certainly played a huge role in who I am today.