NEWS Saint Mary’s University *of Minnesota*

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**SMU student takes full advantage of wonderful**

**opportunities to reach fullest potential.**

Winona, Minn. – Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota junior Kevin Valverde has developed in many ways since graduating in may of 2012 from Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Minneapolis, and continues to excel in and out of the classroom.

Valverde is always looking to the next opportunity while at the same time focusing on his responsibilities for his current work. His internship with Wells Fargo during High School played a huge role in his perspective of having a career. “ It gave me an advantage on what to expect when I start my career,” said Valverde on his Wells Fargo days.

SMU seemed to be the perfect fit for Valverde. He was drawn to the university for several reasons. “ I liked the environment, it has a small family like community feel to it, it’s close to home, and I also really like the mass communications program,” Valverde said.

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Since being at SMU, the junior has joined several clubs and organizations. He has worked as a secretary to the Department Chair in the Masters of Education Department. This has given him a chance to make valuable connections as well as earn money working on campus.

Valverde is a declared Public Relations major and may add a minor in Marketing. “ The course work is challenging but I know that it will pay off in the long run,” said Valverde on his studies at SMU.

Since Valverde is not a member of the SMU Men’s soccer team he finds himself missing the sport he so dearly loves. Because of the many intramural programs offered, he has given thought to making a team. “ I am thinking about starting a team for indoor soccer this spring. I want to have fun but not be so competitive,” Valverde said on SMU intramural soccer.

Valverde truly sees himself returning home to where he is originally from, Brooklyn, New York. He would love to have an internship opportunity at Maimonides hospital in New York. “ I want to get experience in New York because there is a lot of PR opportunity,” said Valverde about returning to New York.

Valverde offers wise advise to students at his alma mater, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School. “ Maintain your grades, do well, and be focused. Also don’t have senioritis no matter how much you want to. Be prepared for everything,”

Valverde now has a better understanding of himself and how to conduct himself professionally, and personally. “ I look forward to gaining more knowledge in PR,” said Valverde. He is looking forward to a bright Future.

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**About Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota**

Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota is dedicated to advancing the educational and career goals of today’s students. Saint Mary’s has more than 5,600 students enrolled in undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs in Winona, the Twin Cities, greater Minnesota, Wisconsin and Nairobi, Kenya. At Saint Mary’s 95-year- old residential campus in Winona, the undergraduate College curriculum combines traditional liberal arts and sciences with career preparation in a student-centered environment. The Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs serves both adult learners and the educational needs of society. With 4,300 students currently enrolled, the Schools of Graduate and Professional Programs-a pioneer in outreach education since 1984-is one of the largest graduate schools in Minnesota.