

Winner of the AASP/UNB Safety Tuition Contest Announced

Sean Tyler Foley was thrilled to be selected as the lucky entrant in the draw for the AASP/UNB Safety Tuition giveaway contest. He wanted to continue his learning in health and safety, but education wasn't at the top of his priority list. Looking at his career pathway, you can understand why. It has been a serendipitous journey.

His career has been far from conventional, but each step has led him to today.

Foley started acting at the age of six. By his mid-20s, acting started to feel like work, and the accomplished film and theatrical performer took his career in a new direction. He went back to school to study to be a geomatics engineering technologist, and soon after graduation, he became a partner in a mapping firm. As a business owner, he was laser-focused on safety. He took many safety courses, including UNB's Occupational Health and Safety Certificate.

Unfortunately, his business partner passed away, and he could not keep the mapping firm going on his own, so it was time to pivot his career again. Maximizing his health and safety knowledge, he became the safety manager for an electrical company.

At this stage, his performance and safety backgrounds met and soon became a perfect match!

One day, while on the site of a major project and preparing for an inspection, he noticed that many staff were working un-safe. He started a toolbox talk that turned into an enthusiastic rant.

"As an actor, I jumped out of windows for a living, and that was safer than what you are doing now," he exclaimed! "My stunts would take months and months of training and preparation, and you guys have the potential to fall at any second without any consideration!" Meanwhile, an executive passing through overheard him, pulled him aside and asked if he would mind sharing his story at their safety stand-down talk the next day. Tyler agreed, and after that talk, another executive asked him if he would give the keynote at their AGM. At the time, Tyler admitted he didn't even know what a keynote was; he'd never done one before but was keen to give it a shot.

The rest is history.

After the keynote, people asked if he would coach them to be better public speakers and conduct safety training. He launched a safety consulting company and started public speaking, coaching, and training. Today, he is a sought-after public speaker, trainer, and international business consultant. He still heads his safety consulting company and has written a best-selling book.

Tyler believes upgrading his skills will serve him well as the figurehead of his company.

"My company relies on me to bring in work, and it will be beneficial for me to say I have these credentials."

Tyler is thrilled to have won the contest and continue his learning journey with the UNB Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety. The benefit of the UNB program is that it is online, and he can work at his own pace. Because he travels so much with his work, fitting structured class time into his life was impossible.

"It is great to have the opportunity to upgrade my professional skills without the financial burden, particularly with the school that I was affiliated with already. I enjoyed the certificate, and I got to develop relationships with some of the instructors, and the technological growth was great."

A lifelong learner, Tyler is always looking to grow and expand.

"I want to get my degree in safety eventually. MBA may be the next step after that. If it takes 15 years to do, whatever, I still feel young."

UNB is currently developing a safety degree program.

Fun Fact: Tyler still dabbles in the entertainment industry. He has an IMDb profile and is filming a made-for-TV movie this month.