



# KURT HARRIS

## B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE '12

When Kurt Harris graduated from CI, he expected to enter the workforce with ease. After all, he had a degree, passion about his fields of study and the desire to do good in his community. Don't great jobs just come along when the "planets align" like that?

"The truth is, it wasn't easy at all," says Harris. "My dream jobs weren't coming, so I had to work where the money was. I later realized how much that experience helped me grow and expand my skills. I learned to accept failure as part of life, and that what you put in is not always what you get out. Sometimes you have to go even beyond what is expected."

A little more than a year ago, Harris joined Mobility Matters, a nonprofit agency that fills transportation gaps for seniors and others in need. He started as Executive Assistant to the CEO but was promoted to Director of Development just six months later. Today he has his sights set on becoming the organization's future leader.

"From the moment I arrived, I took the initiative to help out wherever needed – grant writing, new donor acquisition, donor retention, fundraisers, whatever," says Harris. "Our CEO realized that keeping me in an EA role was a waste, so I was promoted to an executive position."

Harris has helped the company not only increase funding, build partnerships and enhance digital marketing, but also expand services. "Ride 4 Veterans," a program he developed, will launch this year.

An active member of CI's Alumni & Friends Association, Harris started donating to the University last fall.

"After my promotion, I felt the need to give back to the school that helped me get there in the first place," he says. "I also hope to serve on the alumni board some day."

*NOTE: Harris and wife, fellow CI alum MacKenzie Garcia Harris ('12), welcomed their first child, Elijah, last March.*

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