



## Promoting problem solving: New creation key to Marian Central Business Club

*By Janet Dovidio*  
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**A Marian Central Business Club member has created a new product.**

“Senior Matt Cotting, who plans to study aerospace design and technology in college, is our resident 3-D printing guru,” teacher Joe White said. “He first honed his 3-D printing abilities in our [INCubatoredu](#) entrepreneur class while he was a sophomore. He really loves all that the 3-D printer can do and has designs in TinkerCAD.”

Cotting said he had been interested in engineering “for a while” and in 3-D printing since he broke his wrist in seventh grade in a skateboard accident. At that time, he made a quick brace for his wrist with molded PLA plastic, a 3-D printing grade plastic.

Since August, Cotting has worked with many ideas to create and sell items on behalf of the business club.

He used Marian's logo for some 3-D printing designs and felt he could turn the Hurricane logo into a keychain. Math/engineering teacher Steve Liggett helped him to refine the idea.

Cotting met with Superintendent Michael Shukis to ask permission to use the school logo.

"I feel that promoting creative, unconventional thinking and fresh approaches can and will help students become better problem solvers down the line," Shukis said. "How could I possibly say no to such a wonderful group and to such a wonderful, creative idea?"

By the end of the day, the superintendent, as well as school chaplain Father Warren, had their own keys hanging off the new Marian keychain.

Cotting and the club produced 50 of them, which sold out at Senior Night at the girls volleyball game in 20 minutes.

"Matt is so humble that he gives equal credit for the keychain idea to fellow club Co-President Brian Pascente, Vice President Jack Newton, and Marketing Director Robert Eschenbacher," White said.

"It seems that every year one of our business students will rise above their peers with their understanding of business practices, self-initiative and leadership abilities. Clearly, Matthew is that person this year. His curiosity seems endless. He has brought our business department much acclaim for his innovation and willingness to help other students."

Shukis said Cotting and the Business Club "are perfect examples of Marian students being creative and gaining the benefits of that creativity."

Cotting has applied to 13 universities and hopes to attend the University of Illinois in Champaign, the University of Colorado at Boulder, or Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind.

He has his own words of advice for fellow students.

"Work hard and get involved in as many things as possible," he said, "because you will eventually find what you really like."