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Sean Hannity was the keynote speaker at the 2014 Williston Basin Petroleum Conference (WBPC) held in May 2014 in Bismarck, North Dakota sponsored by the North Dakota Petroleum Council.

In his presentation he spoke about his “Get America Back to Work” campaign. The original newscast can be watched online, which explains how this journey in the Bakken Oil Patch started.

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<http://youtu.be/A1BZ3Eygb2g>

# SEAN HANNITY

## ONE GREAT AMERICAN IN THE HEARTLAND OF THE US OIL PATCH

by JASON SPIESS

Most people think ‘Oh, Hannity you’re a radio and TV guy so you must be rich.’ Well, whatever money I have, it came later in life and the best thing I ever did was get my hands dirty and go to work. It leaves such an impression on you.

My son Patrick wants to go to work and get his hands dirty, I’m all for it. The sad thing is there’s a couple of statistics that came out recently, and with all the talk about the recovery summer and

the stimulus, and shovel-ready jobs, we have more people graduating college and going home and living with mommy and daddy.

Now I left home when I was 18 and I don’t want to go back home and live with mommy and daddy, and I don’t think those kids want to either. That’s not why they went to college.

Then there was a story in California, where you have 50 to 64-year-olds moving back in with their parents. Last thing I want to do when I am 80 is to have my kid knock on the door and say ‘I’m moving back in Dad’, I’m like ‘No, you’re not, so go get a job.’ Look you’re all experiencing this, I don’t even know why you guys are still in the media here, you all ought to get out into the oil fields and make more money!

My first job in radio paid me \$19,000 per year and I had to move from Santa

Barbara to Huntsville, Alabama. That’s the other thing; I worked my way up in media up from the bottom. I was first working for free then to \$19-thousand-a-year and up to \$40-thousand-a-year. I moved to states where I didn’t know even one single soul. But then I was very blessed and lucky. I would like to say it is talent, but it’s not.”

Sean Hannity has received many awards for his work. He won the Marconi Award in 2003 and again in 2007 in the Network

► continued



Sean Hannity at the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference in Bismarck, ND. Photo by Paul Flessland/Crude Life Photography.

**Following are some excerpts from his address at the WBPC conference:**

“I wouldn’t be the person I am if I didn’t spend years washing dishes, cooking, waiting tables, busing tables, tending bar, painting homes, hanging wallpaper, laying tiles, framing houses, roofing and doing reconstruction,” Hannity said as the keynoted speaker at the Bismarck, North Dakota. “I know what it’s like to have \$200 in the bank, for years for decades of my life.

Syndicated Personality of the Year category from the National Association of Broadcasters.

Hannity started his career as a radio host in 1989 at the college station University of California - Santa Barbara, KCSB-FM. After leaving KCSB, he joined WVNN, a radio station in Athens, Alabama. Sean left WVNN as well and went on to join WGST in Atlanta in 1992. He worked as a co-host in "Hannity and Colmes", a political program on the Fox News Channel (FNC). He currently hosts the nightly TV show on FNC. ■

Jason Spiess is an award winning journalist, talk show host, publisher and executive producer. Spiess is a North Dakota native, Fargo North Alumni and graduate of NDSU. Jason can be reached at [jason@buildingthebakken.com](mailto:jason@buildingthebakken.com).



Sean Hannity at the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference in Bismarck, ND. Photo by Paul Flessland/Crude Life Photography.

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