



Palingwinde Yves Ouedraogo

Division of Student Affairs

Graduate Dean's Medalist for 2011

Palingwinde Yves Ouedraogo, who is from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, completed an M.A. in International Relations with a 3.87 GPA. Coming from an impoverished background in West Africa, he fears that illiteracy could have been his destiny had his parents not invested in his education. When he arrived in the United States from West Africa, Ouedraogo held a bachelor's degree in law, but did not speak English. After attending Kent State University, he enrolled in Fresno State's American English Institute. Ouedraogo has been committed to his education and to serving the campus community as a volunteer for many organizations. He has helped countless graduate students acclimate to the campus and Fresno community. He participated in internships for California's U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein. Ouedraogo plans to pursue a Ph.D. with a goal of working for an international institution involved in development of poor nations.

