

High School and College at the Same Time: Taking Advantage of the “Two P’s”

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More and more students are considering the two P’s—*price* and *preparedness*—when making the decision to earn an Associate’s degree while still in high school.

Craig Lewis is one such student. He enrolled at Zane State College after considering the numerous benefits of starting college early. “I knew Zane State College would prepare me academically and mentally for the rigors of a four-year school,” said Lewis, who applied to extremely competitive universities to continue his studies.

The co-salutatorian of his senior class, Lewis earned an Associate of Technical Studies degree through “Pathways to Engineering.” The program is dual enrollment, dual credit partnership between Zane State College and Mid-East Career and Technology Centers through which high

school juniors and seniors can meet their high school graduation requirements while earning an Associate’s degree at no tuition cost.

Last year, Lewis graduated with 14 other students who simultaneously earned a high school diploma and an associate’s degree. Lewis entered Case Western Reserve University to follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather as he pursues becoming an engineer.

Although 17-year-old William Kirsch is following a very different career path from Lewis, his motivation remains the same. The Maysville High School valedictorian wanted a “leg up” in the admissions process when he searched for a pharmacy program at a four-year university.

Kirsch was delighted to find that the University of Toledo accepted all of his Zane State College credits for their pharmaceutical science program.

Kathy Proffitt has earned an Associate of Arts degree tuition free because of her status as a high school student. She joined Kirsch as one of the first students to graduate from Zane State College’s new transfer degree program. The program enables students to reduce the overall cost of a four-year degree by completing their first two years at Zane State College’s more affordable tuition rate.

Proffitt, who graduated from Crooksville High School, has entered Ohio University-Zanesville to pursue a degree in psychology.

“Knowing what college is like will make it a lot easier to succeed without the stress and anxiety that comes with being a freshman college student,” said Proffitt.