DEAR INDIANA STUDENTS,

Welcome to Learn More, your guide to the future. Maybe you have an idea of your college and career goals. Maybe you’re still exploring your options. No matter what, Learn More can help you plan your next steps.

In this magazine, you’ll learn about:

• Growing careers in Indiana and how to find a career you’ll enjoy at IndianaCareerExplorer.com.

• Your options after high school, including an apprenticeship, certificate, associate degree, bachelor’s degree and more.

• How to cut the costs of higher education.

Your path to success starts now—and that means taking the right steps to prepare yourself for life after high school. Try your hardest every day and ask for help when you need it. Look through these pages to start learning about how you can reach your goals.

After you finish this magazine, talk to your family and teachers about your goals and check in regularly so they can help you succeed.

Have a great school year!

SCHOOL YEAR CHECKLIST

☐ Try your best. School is your job right now, so work hard every day!

☐ Get involved. Participate in extracurricular activities like sports or a club, or volunteer in your community. You’ll gain new skills, meet new people and have fun doing it.

☐ Start your high school graduation plan. Start thinking about the kinds of classes you hope to take.

☐ Take a career interests quiz and start exploring career options. Check out a short quiz here: LearnMoreIndiana.org/career/discover-your-interests.

☐ Learn about college. Talk to your parents, guardians or other caring adults about their experiences. Ask any questions you might have about what it’ll be like.

☐ Talk to your parents about ways to pay for college, like the 21st Century Scholars program, and ask them about setting up a bank account to start saving money.
DISCOVER YOU!

This magazine will help you plan for the future. A good way to start thinking about what your future will look like is thinking about what you like to do now. What you enjoy, what your strengths are, and what skills you want to develop are all good places to start. Also keep in mind, it’s okay to not have all the answers for your future, and most people change their minds about what they want to do for a career. We want to help you start thinking about what your life could look like after high school.

Take your time and think carefully about the following questions before reading the rest of the magazine.

1. **WHAT DO YOU LIKE LEARNING ABOUT?**
   (this can be a school subject, but doesn’t have to be)

2. **WHAT IS A HOBBY OR SKILL YOU WANT TO LEARN OR DEVELOP?**

3. **WHAT ARE 5 PERSONALITY TRAITS YOU HAVE? ARE YOU PATIENT, STRONG, FUNNY, ETC.?**
   (as you read the magazine think about how these traits could fit into different types of careers)

4. **WHAT PART OF GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL IS THE MOST EXCITING TO YOU?**

---

**WIN $529 FOR COLLEGE**

After you finish the magazine, visit [LearnMoreIndiana.org/contest](http://LearnMoreIndiana.org/contest) and share what you want to be when you grow up.

You could have the chance to win $529 toward college!
FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

Did you know that the average American spends about 90,000 hours at work over their lifetime? That’s more than 10 years! That’s a lot of time, so you want to find a career you enjoy. Start thinking about your personality, hobbies and interests. How can you combine these to find a job?

Do you like to build things, play sports or draw? What’s your favorite class? When you stop and think about what makes you happy, you can think about finding the career that fits you.

CAREER TRIVIA

T or F? THE AVERAGE PERSON WILL CHANGE JOBS ABOUT SIX TIMES IN THEIR LIFETIME.

FALSE. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average person changes jobs about 12 times during their lifetime! Your first job won’t be your last, and you’ll keep learning new skills throughout your entire career.

T or F? THE ONLY WAY TO HAVE A CAREER IS BY EARNING A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE.

FALSE. About 99% of all new jobs created since the Great Recession require education and training beyond high school, but that doesn’t mean you have to get a four-year degree. There are a lot of other options to choose from to set yourself up for success!

T or F? GOING TO COLLEGE MEANS YOU’LL EARN MORE MONEY IN YOUR CAREER OVER YOUR LIFETIME.

TRUE. According to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, students who earn an associate degree can expect to earn about $400,000 more than those with a high school diploma. Students who earn a bachelor’s degree can expect to make about $1 million more in their lifetime than students who receive a high school diploma.

THINK ABOUT IT:
Which of the career clusters on Page 4 appeals to you most? Write it down here.
**TOP INDIANA CAREER CLUSTERS**

Career clusters are industries or fields of work with jobs that require similar skills. Choosing career clusters that sound interesting can help you think about your future without the pressure of narrowing your search down to one job. Every career cluster has options for people with all levels of education. Read about some of Indiana’s most in-demand career clusters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES:</th>
<th>Common careers in this cluster:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This cluster produces, markets and develops agricultural products and resources including food, fiber and wood. If you’re interested in farming, food or animals, this is the career cluster for you.</td>
<td>• VETERINARIAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HUMAN SERVICES:</th>
<th>Common careers in this cluster:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This cluster works with human needs like counseling and mental health, family and community services and personal care. If you’re interested in helping people, this is the career cluster for you.</td>
<td>• SOCIAL WORKER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• PSYCHOLOGIST</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:</th>
<th>Common careers in this cluster:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This cluster designs, develops and supports hardware, software and multimedia. If you’re interested in technology and working with computers, this is the career cluster for you.</td>
<td>• DEVELOPER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• COMPUTER TECHNICIAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• WEB DESIGNER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MANUFACTURING:</th>
<th>Common careers in this cluster:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This cluster turns materials into products. If you’re interested in designing products or working with your hands, this is the career cluster for you.</td>
<td>• QUALITY CONTROL ANALYST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• ROBOTICS ENGINEER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• WELDER</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MARKETING, SALES AND SERVICE:</th>
<th>Common careers in this cluster:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This cluster plans, manages and performs marketing activities like designing advertisements and researching consumer behavior. If you’re interested in selling things or talking to people, this is the career cluster for you.</td>
<td>• MARKETING MANAGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• SALES REPRESENTATIVE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
YOU’VE GOT CAREER SKILLS!

When little kids think about what they want to be when they grow up, they think in a direct way: if I’m good at math, I should be a banker or accountant!

In the real world, skills are applicable in a range of fields. Electrical engineers have become journalists; police officers have become politicians; music majors have become CEOs. Most people change careers several times in their lives. As you chase your goals, remember that you’ve got skills that can be applied in many ways.

### Circle a job from each industry that appeals to you. Put a star on the 1-2 jobs that interest you the most.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORGANIZATION</th>
<th>BUSINESS &amp; MANUFACTURING</th>
<th>HEALTHCARE &amp; MEDICINE</th>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT MANAGER</td>
<td>Chief Nursing Officer Chief Financial Officer</td>
<td>Teacher Administrator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT</td>
<td>Project Manager Chief Operating Officer</td>
<td>(all medical careers)</td>
<td>(all careers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer Chief Operating Officer</td>
<td>(all patient-facing careers)</td>
<td>Teacher Administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT MANAGER</td>
<td>Chief Operating Officer Chief Information Officer</td>
<td>Hospital Administrator Chief Financial Officer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER</td>
<td>Manager Customer Service</td>
<td>(all patient-facing careers)</td>
<td>Teacher Administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXECUTIVE</td>
<td>Chief Financial Officer Chief Operating Officer Chief Information Officer</td>
<td>Pharmacist Doctor Nurse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUSTOMER SERVICE</td>
<td>Chief Operating Officer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRITING/SPEAKING</td>
<td>Product Development Pharmacist</td>
<td>Health Analyst Public Health Educator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>International Business (all patient-facing careers)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>Corporate Lawyer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOREIGN LANGUAGES</td>
<td>Customer Service Business Executive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hospice Care Nurse Doctor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMPATHY/PEOPLE SKILLS</td>
<td></td>
<td>(all careers)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LearnMoreIndiana.org
ASK AN ADULT...

Did you know one of the best ways to figure out if a career field is a good fit for you is by talking to people who work in that field?

There are a lot of people in your community willing to talk about their careers. Consider interviewing family members or other adults you know at school, in your community, through extracurricular activities or at your house of worship.

Here are some questions to get you started. After your interview, make sure to follow up with a thank-you note or email!

1. What are the main responsibilities in your job?
2. What does a typical day or week look like?
3. What do you like most about your work? What do you like least?
4. How did you become interested in this career?
5. What kind of education, training or background does your job require?
6. What skills and abilities do you think are important in this career?
7. What advice do you have for me about getting started?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGRICULTURE</th>
<th>COMPUTERS/IT</th>
<th>PROFESSIONAL</th>
<th>SERVICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>(all careers)</td>
<td>Sports Management</td>
<td>Construction Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Manager</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nonprofit Leader Real Estate Agent</td>
<td>Project Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Inspector</td>
<td>Developer Programmer</td>
<td>Engineer Architect</td>
<td>Project Manager Electrician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Architect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Customer Service</td>
<td>Nonprofit Leader Lawer Journalist</td>
<td>Customer Service Permits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buyer</td>
<td>(all careers)</td>
<td>Accountant Banker Auditor</td>
<td>Business Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Scientist</td>
<td>(all careers)</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Research</td>
<td>Electrical Engineer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Scientist</td>
<td></td>
<td>Water-Quality Manager Chemist</td>
<td>Civil Engineer Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Medical Technician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Agribusiness</td>
<td>International Business</td>
<td>Civil Service State Department</td>
<td>On-Site Manager Police Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Social Worker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture Hobbyist</td>
<td>Archivist Researcher</td>
<td>Lawyer Government Leader</td>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Specialist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Customer Service</td>
<td>Psychologist Social Worker Real</td>
<td>Law Enforcement Emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Estate</td>
<td>Medical Technician Firefighter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EDUCATION: YOUR PATH TO SUCCESS

Middle school is an important part of your educational journey. What you do now will set you up for success in high school, college and your future career.

WHY IT MATTERS

There are a lot of reasons to continue your education after high school. The first thing you might think of is that college grads make more money than those with only a high school diploma.

Consider this: Living in Indiana in 2021, you’ll want to make at least $40,000 a year to cover living expenses and have some spending money. To get a job that pays $20 an hour you will need some education beyond high school. That doesn’t mean that getting a four-year degree is the only option, though.

STILL NOT CONVINCED?

Education gives you more opportunities and options. Companies want to hire people who know how to solve problems. By continuing your education, you’ll gain more skills. The more education you have, the more career options you’ll have.

Education gives you a sense of purpose. Higher education will help you gain the knowledge, skills and abilities to live confidently. People who go to college are more likely to vote and volunteer in their communities, things that make a difference in our world.

Education is an investment in yourself. Your education belongs to you for life. The knowledge and skills you gain from education will be yours forever.
PICTURE YOUR PATH

When it comes to college, you have options. Before you graduate high school, you will choose which option is best for you. Think about some of the pathways below. You might change your mind later, but it’s important to start thinking about the future now.

APPRENTICESHIP:
A program that allows you to learn a skilled trade from an expert in your field, and get paid while you do so! There are apprenticeships in all kinds of careers, like automotive, construction and information technology. Once you’ve completed this specialized training, you’ll have credentials that will be valued anywhere you go.

MILITARY:
The Military includes branches such as the Army, Navy, Marines and more. In the military, you can access education and training in high-tech fields while serving your country. You can use this training to earn college credit during or after your service.

WORKFORCE CERTIFICATE:
If you don’t want to spend a lot of time in college, you can jump into a career in Indiana’s high-growth industries with a workforce certificate in about a year. The state’s Next Level Jobs initiative offers grants to pursue a workforce certificate.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE:
Many associate degrees can be earned in two years. With an associate degree, you can qualify for careers in nursing, management and web design. Your associate degree can also count toward a bachelor’s degree if you decide you’d like to continue your education later.

BACHELOR’S DEGREE:
When most people think of college, they think of getting a bachelor’s degree at a four-year college. The more years of college you attend, the more jobs you are likely to qualify for. Indiana has a lot of great four-year colleges to choose from!

EARNING POTENTIAL:
Look up the salary for the jobs you gave stars to in ‘You’ve Got Career Skills’ and write it down, then look up what kind of education that type of job requires. Does it make at least $40,000?
HIGH SCHOOL VOCAB 101

High school is quickly approaching! There are a lot of choices when it comes to what and how you learn in high school. The good news is, your school counselor, teachers and parents or guardians can help you come up with a plan.

Your plan should include the diploma you want to earn and classes that spark your interest and are academically challenging. You can even get college credit while you’re in high school in some classes. Here are words to look for as you create your high school plan:

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP):
College-level courses offered in high school. If you score well on AP exams, you may earn college credit, saving you time and money.

DUAL CREDIT:
College courses taught in high school or at a local college that will earn high school and college credit. Talk to your high school counselor to learn more.

INDIANA COLLEGE CORE:
Consists of a block of 30 college credit hours that can be earned during high school and transferred to any public (and some private) colleges in Indiana. Check to see if your high school offers this program.

CTE:
Also called “career and technical education”, these courses give you career skills in many different areas like construction, graphic design and healthcare.

CORE 40:
A standard high school diploma designed to prepare students for many college programs and careers.

CORE 40 WITH ACADEMIC HONORS:
A high school diploma that requires students to complete academically challenging courses. Some four-year colleges in Indiana require this type of diploma.

CORE 40 WITH TECHNICAL HONORS:
A high school diploma that requires students to complete college and career prep courses. Some technical programs and apprenticeships require this type of diploma.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB):
A rigorous high school program that includes foreign languages and independent study. You may also receive college credit for IB courses. Check to see if your high school offers this program.

It’s important to choose the courses and diploma that best fit your college and career goals.
GRADUATION PATHWAYS

Indiana’s Graduation Pathways are designed to help you meet state requirements while still giving you options to pursue what interests you. Here’s a look at what the Graduation Pathways requirements are to get you thinking about what options may be right for you.

1 EARN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

2 SHOW YOU’RE READY FOR COLLEGE OR A CAREER BY:

- Completing a project-based learning experience, like conducting a long-term research assignment at school;
- Completing a service-based learning experience, like volunteering or being involved in school activities;
  or
- Completing a work-based learning experience, like doing an internship or working outside of the school day.

3 SHOW YOU’RE READY FOR EDUCATION BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL BY:

- Earning a Core 40 Academic or Technical Honors diploma;
- Earning a “C” or higher in college-level classes like AP, IB or dual credit;
- Getting a recognized credential, certification or apprenticeship;
- Earning placement into one of the branches of the military by taking the ASVAB;
- Earning college-ready scores on the ACT or SAT;
  or
- Earning a “C” or higher in at least six career and technical education (CTE) credits.

For more information, talk to your school counselor or visit the Indiana Department of Education’s website at DOE.IN.gov/graduation-pathways
SELF-CARE

Time for some real talk: middle school and junior high can be some of the toughest years of your life! You and your peers are going through big changes: academically, physically and socially. Nobody skates through it with ease — it’s OK not to feel OK all the time.

It’s easy to get caught up worrying about things like school, friends and sports. One of the best things you can do to make sure you are at your best (now and throughout your life) is to take care of yourself by practicing self-care.

WHAT IS SELF-CARE?
Self-care means doing things that are in your control to keep yourself mentally, emotionally and physically healthy. It ranges from things like brushing your teeth to practicing meditation.

WHY SHOULD YOU PRACTICE SELF-CARE?
In addition to making sure you are at your best, it also gives you a sense of control over yourself and your life during a time that can feel pretty chaotic.

HOW CAN YOU PRACTICE SELF-CARE?

**Everyday hygiene:** At this age, it is important to practice good hygiene. Taking a shower, brushing your teeth and hair and washing your face are basic elements of good hygiene you should practice every day.

**Get your rest:** Kids your age typically need about 8-11 hours of sleep per day. Try to go to bed around the same time every night and get up at the same time every morning. Avoid sleeping in front of a screen. The blue light that comes from electronic screens leads to bad sleep.

**Eat well and often:** A well-rounded diet is essential for good physical and mental health. Try to eat foods that aren’t processed. Instead of soda and chips, try water or milk and fruit. Instead of eating one or two big meals a day, have moderately sized meals, with healthy snacks throughout the day. Be sure to drink LOTS of water!

**Live long and prosper:** Avoid alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Besides being illegal, these substances reduce life expectancy and are often responsible for accidents that can injure or even kill young people. Not to mention they are terrible for your skin.

**You like to move it, move it:** No matter what kind of shape you are in, physical activity clears your mind and strengthens your body. Try to get 30-60 minutes of activity a day. It can be anything from an easy walk to yoga to a competitive athletic practice.

**Good vibes only:** Try to surround yourself with people who support you. Negative stress is a part of life, but when you can, try to keep your distance from negative people.

**Keep it clean:** Try to keep your immediate surroundings clean and organized. An organized space can help you feel calm and focused.
YOU’VE GOT COLLEGE SKILLS!

In middle school, learning begins to shift from being teacher-directed to student-directed. Instead of teachers always telling you and showing you exactly what to do, students become more responsible for their own learning, studying and academic habits. It is the best time to start practicing study skills that prepare you for high school and college.

HAVE A GROWTH MINDSET.

Having a growth mindset means removing any limits that you have placed on yourself and others. When you are young, you typically want — and expect — everything to be the same. But life changes and people change. You may have been bad at math as a first-grader, but you might find that pre-algebra makes a lot of sense to you now.

BE PAY ATTENTION.

Obvious, right? Paying attention in class — and taking notes! — is worth double its weight in study time. If you are paying attention to what is going on in real-time, you won’t be scrambling to try to figure out what is going on when it’s test time.

A QUIET PLACE.

Designate a place in your house where you do your homework and study. If possible, it should be quiet and clean. When you sit down, your brain will know “it’s study time.”

PHONE DOWN, EYES UP.

You can’t pay attention to what is going on in class if you are scrolling the “For You” page. If you just can’t help yourself, keep your phone in your locker during class, or put time limits on your apps.

BREAK IT DOWN.

“Cramming” for a test — waiting until the last minute, and then studying everything — makes you tired and overpowers your brain. Whether it’s homework, a project or studying, try breaking it into chunks over the course of several days.
COLLEGE COSTS MONEY... BUT IT’S WORTH IT...

College can be expensive. There are many things to pay for like tuition (the cost of classes), books, room and board (housing and meals) and other costs.

The fact is, investing in your future education is one of the best decisions you’ll ever make. You are more likely to earn more money and to have a career you enjoy with education and training after high school. Luckily, there are steps you and your family can take to make it more affordable. The State of Indiana gives out more than $350 million to help students pay for college! This is called financial aid.

FINANCIAL AID 101

Most financial aid is given out by the government, the college you will attend or community organizations like churches or non-profits. Here are some words to look for as you get older and closer to college; they’re sure to make a difference.

**FAFSA:**
The Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You must submit the FAFSA during your senior year of high school, and each year you are in college to qualify for financial aid.

**GRANTS:**
Free money for college, often awarded based on your family’s financial need. To qualify for most grants, you’ll have to file the FAFSA.

**LOANS:**
Money you borrow and are expected to pay back when you graduate from college. Loans are given by banks and the federal government. They charge interest, which is a fee for allowing you to borrow money. You should try to limit how much money you take out in loans for this reason; you will end up paying much more in the long run.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:**
Free money for college, often awarded based on your achievements in classes, sports or the arts (merit-based), or your family’s financial circumstances (need-based). Learn more about one of Indiana’s oldest scholarship programs, 21st Century Scholars, on the next page.

HEY PARENTS!
If you’re interested in the 21st Century Scholars program, visit Scholars.IN.gov/enroll to learn more.
Did you know that you could earn a scholarship from Indiana to get your college tuition paid for? This scholarship is called the 21st Century Scholarship. It offers students the chance to earn up to four years of tuition at an eligible Indiana college. Over the past 30 years, the 21st Century Scholarship has helped over 40,000 Hoosier students earn a college degree!

Read more about a couple of talented 21st Century Scholars alumni...

**SANOVIA GARRETT** graduated from Muncie Central High School in 2010. As a first-generation college student, she earned her bachelor’s degree from Ball State University. She went on to earn her Master’s degree in Urban Studies and is considering pursuing a doctorate degree, too.

According to Sanovia:

> Without the 21st Century Scholarship program, I am unsure if I truly would have gone to college and attended Ball State University, where I was further encouraged to pursue a Doctorate degree in the future. 21st Century Scholars prepared me in 7th grade for a promising future in college. Growing up in a single (grand)parent home, we faced many financial struggles, but 21st Century Scholars gave light in a space where my grandmother did not understand the higher education system.

**CHARLES BROOKS** grew up in Terre Haute and graduated from Terre Haute North Vigo High School. After high school, he attended Indiana University – Bloomington where he earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics education. He also earned his master’s degree in student affairs and higher education from Indiana State University. Now, he works at Indiana University in their career development center helping students find their path in life.

Charles said:

> I would not be where I am without the 21st Century Scholars program. I had dreams and goals of attending college from a young age, but there is no possible way I could have afforded to attend without this program, especially not my dream school of Indiana University. Because of this program, I was able to have a fulfilling experience that allowed me to focus on my studies and fully engage in the university setting. Nothing in my life would be the same if I had not been a part of the 21st Century Scholars program.

To qualify for the 21st Century Scholars program, you must enroll before the end of 8th grade. Learn about all the requirements at [LearnMoreIndiana.org/scholars/enroll](http://LearnMoreIndiana.org/scholars/enroll)
SAVING FOR YOUR FUTURE

Financial aid helps a lot of students pay for college, but it might not cover everything. To help you pay for future expenses, you can start saving money now. Do you get money for your birthday or holidays? Do you get an allowance or get paid to mow lawns in the summer? Try saving a little bit of it for college. An adult can help you set up a savings account where your money can grow by earning interest.

YOU’VE GOT SKILLS!

In addition to financial aid, loans and grants, scholarships are one way to help pay for college. Scholarships are granted by a wide range of sources, including professional clubs, governmental organizations, colleges and more. Scholarship awards also have a variety of criteria for determining who receives them. These include:

- Financial need of the student
- Academic achievement
- Special talents or specific areas of study
- Community involvement

For nearly all scholarships, you must fill out an application to be considered. Regardless of the type of scholarship, there are skills you can develop to ensure you have the best application possible. Here are a few:

- Get good grades in school.
- Develop strong writing skills. Many scholarships ask students to write an essay, which can make the difference between whether or not you get the scholarship.
- Develop and master your unique skills. Scholarships specific to certain skills or fields of study are widely available. Whether you love science, are an amazing piano player or an elite athlete, keep practicing your skills — it can pay off in the long run.
- Practice bouncing back. One bad grade won’t sink a chance at a scholarship. Overcoming negative things that happen in life, either in school or in your personal life, is a quality that many colleges reward because they know you will do what it takes to succeed.
- Get involved in your community. Join clubs at school, volunteer or help tutor younger kids. Anything that demonstrates your dedication to impacting society is attractive to colleges and scholarship committees.
GOAL SETTING

Goal setting is an important part of staying focused on the future, but setting a goal is just one step. Once you have a goal in place, it is very important that you understand the steps it will take to achieve that goal, and know how you will overcome any obstacles along the way.

The exercise below will help you think about your long-term goal — what type of career you would like — so you can start planning for how you will get there.

1 WHAT TYPE OF CAREER(S) DO I WANT TO HAVE?

2 WHAT TYPE OF COLLEGE WILL I NEED TO PURSUE THAT CAREER?
   (TRAINING SCHOOL, 1 YEAR, 2-YEAR, 4-YEAR)

3 WHAT KIND OF GRADES WILL I NEED TO GO TO COLLEGE FOR THAT CAREER?

4 WHAT WAYS WILL I PAY FOR COLLEGE?
   (SAVINGS, SCHOLARSHIPS, FINANCIAL AID, ETC.)

5 HOW MUCH MONEY CAN I EXPECT TO MAKE IN MY CAREER AFTER I GRADUATE?

Discover Your Interests — Take the Learn More Indiana personality quiz.
DEAR INDIANA PARENTS OR GUARDIANS,

Learn More isn’t just for kids. We encourage you to read this magazine with your child as a way to talk about college and career readiness. It’s never too early to start thinking about your child’s future, including career choices, college options and how to pay for it all.

If you’re thinking about going back to school yourself, now is a great time to start researching the many opportunities Indiana has to offer adult students. Visit NextLevelJobs.org to get connected with jobs, education and training and other supports, including the Next Level Jobs Workforce Ready Grant, which pays full tuition for short-term, high-value certificates in: Advanced Manufacturing, Building and Construction, Health and Life Sciences, Information Technology and Business Services and Transportation and Logistics.

Visit LearnMoreIndiana.org/statefinancialaid to learn more about all Indiana state financial aid programs.

Sincerely,

ERIC HOLCOMB
Governor, State of Indiana

DR. KATIE JENNER
Indiana Secretary of Education

TERESA LUBBERS
Commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Visit LearnMoreIndiana.org
HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD PREPARE AND PAY FOR COLLEGE AND THEIR FUTURE CAREER?

- Consider applying for the 21st Century Scholars program. Visit Scholars.IN.gov for eligibility information. Applications must be received by June 30 of your child’s 8th grade year.

- Connect with teachers, counselors and administrators to partner in helping your child succeed.

- Get involved in your child’s choice of classes in middle school and high school. Make sure they are taking academically challenging courses that align with their interests, skills and goals.

- Help your child build good study skills and do everything you can to encourage reading.

- Learn more about Indiana’s new Graduation Pathways requirement on page 10. This will impact what your child will need to do in high school.

- Have conversations with your child about the subjects they enjoy, the hobbies they love, and how they can translate these into their future college and career choices.

- Encourage your child to get involved in extracurricular activities that can build employability or soft skills, and potentially help them earn a scholarship.

- Start saving now. Consider setting up an Indiana CollegeChoice 529 Direct Savings Plan. CollegeChoice 529 Direct Savings Plan helps families save for future education in a tax-advantaged way. Funds can be used at any school that accepts federal financial aid, including tech, trade, two-year, four-year and registered apprenticeship programs. Earnings grow tax-deferred and Indiana residents may be eligible for a 20% tax credit. For more information about the CollegeChoice 529 Direct Savings Plan, call 866.485.9415 or visit CollegeChoiceDirect.com.

INDIANA HAS YOUR BACK SO YOU CAN MOVE FORWARD.

Your Next Step provides a one-stop shop for resources in Indiana that can help you take the next step in your career, education and life. Think of the website as a lobby, with doors you can choose to walk through and connect to the help you need to move forward.

Get started today at YourNextStepIN.org
IN PUBLIC COLLEGES
1. Ball State University
2. Indiana State University
3. Indiana University-Bloomington
4. Indiana University-East
5. Indiana University-Fort Wayne
6. Indiana University-Kokomo
7. Indiana University-Northwest
8. Indiana University-South Bend
9. Indiana University-Southeast
10. IPUC (Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus)
11. IUPUI (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis)
12. Ivy Tech Community College-Anderson
13. Ivy Tech Community College-Avon
14. Ivy Tech Community College-Batesville
15. Ivy Tech Community College-Bloomington
16. Ivy Tech Community College-Columbus
17. Ivy Tech Community College-Fort Wayne
18. Ivy Tech Community College-Greencastle
19. Ivy Tech Community College-Indianapolis
20. Ivy Tech Community College-Jacksonville
21. Ivy Tech Community College-Lafayette
22. Ivy Tech Community College-Lake County
23. Ivy Tech Community College-Lawrenceburg
24. Ivy Tech Community College-Logansport
25. Ivy Tech Community College-Madison
26. Ivy Tech Community College-Marion
27. Ivy Tech Community College-Michigan City
28. Ivy Tech Community College-Muncie
29. Ivy Tech Community College-New Castle
30. Ivy Tech Community College-New Castle East
31. Ivy Tech Community College-West Lafayette
32. Ivy Tech Community College-Wabash College
33. Ivy Tech Community College-Sellersburg
34. Ivy Tech Community College-South Bend/Elkhart
35. Ivy Tech Community College-Terre Haute
36. Ivy Tech Community College-Vincennes
37. Purdue University-Fort Wayne
38. Purdue University Northwest-Westville Campus
39. Purdue University Northwest-Hammond Campus
40. Purdue University-Fort Wayne
41. Purdue University Northwest-Westville Campus
42. Purdue University-West Lafayette
43. University of Southern Indiana
44. Ancilla College of Marian University
45. Anderson University
46. Bethel University
47. Butler University
48. Calumet College of Saint Joseph
49. DePauw University
50. Earlham College
51. Earlham College
52. Franklin College
53. Goshen College
54. Grace College
55. Hanover College
56. Holy Cross College
57. Huntington University
58. Indiana Tech
59. Indiana Wesleyan University
60. Manchester University
61. Marian University
62. Martin University
63. Oakland City University
64. Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

IN PRIVATE COLLEGES
1. Ancilla College of Marian University
2. Anderson University
3. Bethel University
4. Butler University
5. Calumet College of Saint Joseph
6. DePauw University
7. Earlham College
8. Franklin College
9. Goshen College
10. Grace College
11. Hanover College
12. Holy Cross College
13. Huntington University
14. Indiana Tech
15. Indiana Wesleyan University
16. Manchester University
17. Marian University
18. Martin University
19. Oakland City University
20. Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

IN ONLINE COLLEGES
- Purdue University Global
- WGU Indiana

CAREER PLANNING  COLLEGE SUCCESS