

Subject: Student testimonials from Lebanon

Student reflections from Lebanon School District:

The fifth year program has made the transition to college seamless and affordable. If I was given a second year in the program, I would have a large opportunity to save up money for the last two years of my degree.

-Tanner Jacobsen

The 5th year program is a step in the right direction for education. It's given me a free jump start on my college career. Yes--scary as it may seem, I'm glad for free education. We need more programs like this, not less. Programs that give people like me head-starts on life, and give others a chance at it.

-William Hood-Douda

This program is a life changing experience. An exceptional opportunity for people who can't afford to pay their own way. I wouldn't be able to continue my education without it, and I'm sure I'm not the only one. I'm exceptionally grateful for this opportunity and am excited to learn more on this education path.

-Keisha Day

Beyond LHS (the fifth year program) has been one of the most beneficial programs that I have been involved with. This program has allowed me, and other students, to finish all of the core classes that are required of us and would have potentially prevented us from joining the program for our major we had intended to when we entered college. This program has also prevented me from postponing my education, where if this program did not exist I would have done in order to attain the money that would have been necessary for me to attend school. Not only that, but this program is a great tool for students that still do not have an idea what they would like to pursue. This has allowed them the opportunity to explore without the consequences of having to spend thousands of dollars that may end up being wasted all because they did not have a clear idea of what they would have liked to pursue. I would like other students to have the same opportunity as I had when I had graduated, without having to worry about being put into debt or postponing their education because of financial worries.

-Kristina Kietzke

The Beyond LHS program has been great. It's helped me pay for school that I wouldn't have the money for otherwise, while at the same time, introducing me to the curriculum I will be studying later in college.

-Trenton Kilgore

Our families future was irreparably changed for the worst when another person caused an accident which left me with disabling injuries for the rest of my life. Without this program my daughter would never have had the opportunity to go to college or to move her life towards a better future. Programs like this make a huge difference in the lives of families who have had to cope with tragedies like ours.

-Mike Bullard, parent of student Jessica Bullard

I would not be where I am today without beyond LHS and I believe every student should have access to what beyond LHS has to offer. I started attending classes at LBCC in September of 2011 at the age of 16. Prior to LBCC I had been home-schooled since the 4th grade. Upon my acceptance in the program I met with my advisers at the time, Larry Anderson and Kathy Chaffin, amazing people who pointed me in the right direction, they helped me start the journey that would lead me to achieve my goals. Attending LBCC was a great experience! I had a great relationship with my professors, and largely they supported

the idea of a 16 year old attending college. Throughout my college experience I had several people tell me how lucky I was to have this program available to me. This is true, I was very lucky to have the opportunity to attend college at 16. I was able to graduate from Lebanon High School at 19 with my high-school diploma and my Associates in General Studies from LBCC. This was a proud moment in my life, I accomplished something that very few have the ability to do. Most people don't have the opportunity to attend college courses, and certainly not at the age of 16. I believe that beyond LHS gives students an advantage in today's society. At 19 I was way ahead of the High School students I graduated with. Beyond LHS taught me that with hard work and determination you CAN achieve your goals. Currently I work for Sweet Home Fire as a Firefighter/EMT and I will graduate Paramedic school in June of 2016 at the age of 21. This is only possible because of Beyond LHS. I ask for your support of this program so that others may have the same opportunity and success that I have had.

-James Lang

Thank you for the opportunity to address this forum. My name is Joe Lang, my wife and I have 4 kids whom we have homeschooled, one is 20 now and started LHS and Beyond program when he was 16. He had a great experience and graduated with his HS diploma and an AA Degree. He is now a fireman, EMT and is finishing Paramedic school with honors, this will be his career. He is now 20 years old and encourages his younger siblings now in the beyond program. One daughter is graduating in April with HS diploma and AA degree, she did very well, is president of a club that received club of the year, has been on honor roll and will be 19 when she graduates, youngest daughter is in her 5th term and is doing very well, and excited to be in this school, she will graduate in spring of 2017, these three are very grateful to have had this opportunity and also realize the value of what they have received. They have worked hard so as not to waste this opportunity. Our youngest son is turning 16 this summer and is hoping to attend LBCC in this program with the encouragement of the older 3 siblings. Please fight for this program to continue. We know dozens of other students who have done well and achieved this goal and are stepping out in the world with opportunity knowing they can achieve their goals and dreams.

-Joe Lang, parent of former BLHS student James Lang

The current program is an amazing opportunity for young students to get a start on their college education, and I know that many of my friends would not have been able to attend college without it. It allows teens to gain new academic skills and experience they would not have learned in high school.

-Alyssa Ruisbroek

This program had helped me complete almost two years of college right out of high school, without that push and encouragement, I would of never been able to achieve this. College is expensive, and it's either working to pay bills, or living with your parents in order to go to school, and not everyone has that opportunity. So I would like to give a huge shout out to Lebanon High School for standing by me during this journey, thanks to you guys and your dedication towards all of our educations, I am happy to say that I can now apply for the nursing program in March of 2017! And have a great career by the age of 24! I'm so thankful for all of the helped I've received, and I hope that every other students get to have the same experience and encouragement that I got. It's a huge leap towards starting our lives, and makes college not just a dream, but a goal within reach.

-Haley Daniels

Without this program I will not be able to afford to college, it's an amazing opportunity for students that are just starting out in the world to find their path and not have to worry about the financial situation for the rest of their educational careers. It's very hard for the program to be pulled out from underneath your feet when you're in your senior year and not knowing what to do, and you're

depending on it. It's a very helpful program for students that couldn't have done it by themselves and it guides them in a direction that will lead them to greater levels in life.

-Morgan Sperrazza