



## **Students In The Spotlight: Boise State Concurrent Enrollment Prepares Upcoming Payette High Graduates for College Careers**

by Colette Thomas

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After years of diligent preparation, Boise State Concurrent Enrollment student and Payette High School senior, Tess Warzyn, has been accepted to a variety of renowned universities. "That I have been able to challenge and push myself academically with the resources made available to me through Boise State Concurrent Enrollment has been no small factor in these acceptances." As she prepares to graduate from Payette High this May, Tess, alongside her English 101 and University 100: High School to College Transitions classmates are on their way to completing their first year of college through the Boise State Concurrent Enrollment program.

The college-level skills and responsibility acquired from taking John Kowatsch's English 101 and Deborah Christian's University 100 courses has improved the all-around study and work habits of Payette High's Concurrent Enrollment students. In her final semester before transitioning to a full-time university student, Payette senior Ashley A. Miller is ready for the demands of an undergraduate. She now feels better prepared for the curricular demands and teaching techniques that will be experienced in college.

After completing a course, students receive an official transcript from Boise State to submit to their prospective schools. This gives them an advantage when schools see that many of these high school students already have college experience, not to mention a post-secondary grade-point average. With her Boise State transcript, Adrianna Lynch says she is able to show schools how serious she is about her academics. Getting a jump-start on her college education has made Adrianna more career-oriented as she considers the schools to which she's been accepted.

With a handful of students at Payette holding a 4.0 GPA or higher, many were awarded a need-based scholarship through Boise State and the Idaho College Access Challenge Grant. This helped students pay for their reduced course fees of \$65 per credit as offered by the program. This was the perfect opportunity for Gwenivere King and her family to afford college. "I was able to take four credits, cost-free, thanks to the great scholarship." Over \$100,000 in scholarship funds were distributed during the Fall 2011 semester to Concurrent Enrollment students with Boise State.

After taking Christian's University 100, Joseph Bolin, another scholarship recipient, says he feels more prepared and eager for the next phase of his life. "It has opened my eyes to new ideas." Like many of his peers, Joseph was afraid he was going to have to find a way to save for tuition with his after-school job prior to receiving the scholarship. Students benefited greatly from Christian's University 100 lesson-plan that included researching and applying for financial aid. For Kaley King, the class has opened doors and given her the confidence she needs to aim for higher education. Rather than shying away from applying to her ideal colleges due to financial concerns, Kaley now knows the scholarship process that will help her realize her goals.

Concurrent Enrollment and the partnership between high schools and Boise State University has helped students set their sights higher than they could have imagined, especially those who didn't think college was attainable or affordable. Most importantly, Concurrent Enrollment students are empowered to make decisions about their education beyond high school. A future that once felt "mysterious and unknown" to Jonathon Eichelberger is now something he looks forward to. As Jonathon's classmate, Tara Cutler put it; she is now prepared to start making some of the most important decisions of her life.

**For more information on Concurrent Enrollment, please visit**  
<http://boisestate.edu/concurrentenrollment/>.