

Transcript: [Show 17 January 9, 2012](#)

Up next on ATE-TV: Preparing for a future in engineering while still in high school.

Many high school students are getting a head start by taking college credit courses. These courses help them develop their core academics along with their organizational and time management skills.

What we have here is the joint we're going to make.

We wanted to create a hand.

It's in a pocket and cut all this out.

We don't care what type of engineering our students go into. We just want them getting into science, technology and engineering careers.

The main goal is to try to animate this hand.

Several of our high school courses are articulated with our local community colleges. When they graduate from high school they've already earned some college credit.

Now make this one inch by negative one inch.

If you want a career in engineering, it leads you in the right path.

We run students through an integrated program where they study drafting, engineering design, robotics, manufacturing, coordinating that with core academics. They really get to apply what they learn in the math classes, they get to apply what they're learning in their science classes, and they're getting themselves ready for college and career.

We decide where it's going to be, what axis on the x, on the y and z, and we tell our specific coordinate. So when we press start, the wood's already ready and it's already--

The teacher told us in the beginning, this is going to be a hard class, it's not going to be easy, so if you need to learn discipline.

Being in this class I actually learned to be on time, do all my work, and just stay on task.

One of the big aspects of our program is the Mentor Program. Mentors help guide them through completing their college applications, filling out resumes, applying for scholarships, so they really are ready to move on into a post-secondary world.

We have meeting every month with mentors from engineering fields. They personally keep a check on you. They tell you their experiences. You talk to them about your plans, your future goals, and they help you out because they've already been through it.

I will be the first one to go to college. I want my brothers and sisters to look up to me and say, you know he did it; I can do it, too.

We count ourselves very successful in taking students through high school and getting them onto college, by keeping them in college, graduating them from college, because they really are passionate about what they're doing.

So we actually attended a conference, and then they were like, oh, so you guys are college students? We're like, no, we're high school students. And their looks was just like, wow, are you serious?

I'm like, yeah.

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Thanks for watching.