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East Troy High School Student Earns Accounting Diploma Before Graduating High School

Brady Orlowski, a senior at East Troy High School (ETHS), has achieved a remarkable feat that is becoming more common within the district. Beginning his journey into higher education early in his high school career, Orlowski will be graduating not only with a high school diploma but also with an Associate Degree in Accounting from Gateway Technical College, all before donning his cap and gown for the commencement ceremony.

Orlowski's path to this achievement started with his ability to take transcribed (college-level courses through Gateway technical college) at ETHS. Currently ETHS offers 32 transcribed credit courses which allows students to work towards their college degree by taking transcribed credit classes at ETHS. ETHS also offers 14 Advanced Placement courses which allows students to earn required credits at ETHS with our supportive teachers that also fulfill requirements for the associate's degree.

Mrs. Stacey Kuehn, Principal, explained that "ETHS provides a personalized learning environment for students to earn college credit through Advanced Placement (AP) and Transcribed Credit (Gateway courses taught at ETHS by an ETHS teacher) in a high school setting. Our ability to support students within our high school to the majority of the required courses is unique to our district. We then partner, through Start College Now (SCN), for our students to take the remaining few courses at a technical college to earn their associates degree."

With his decision to participate in available transcribed credits at ETHS as well as the SCN program with Gateway Technical College, Orlowski had the opportunity to earn college credits at no cost while still attending high school. This initiative wasn't just about earning high school credits; it was about paving a faster and more efficient route towards his college degree.

"It was a new experience and pretty fun learning about a different career field – and being able to earn those credits for high school and transfer them to a college is nice," Orlowski reflects. "I'm able to get some of those classes out of the way right now while I'm in high school."

As of today, Orlowski has successfully completed all the necessary coursework at Gateway Technical College, culminating in the attainment of his accounting degree, with district honors. His dedication and hard work have not gone unnoticed, with the Gateway graduation ceremony slated for May 14th marking a significant milestone in his academic journey.

What sets Orlowski's accomplishment apart is not just the early acquisition of his associate degree but also his proactive approach towards furthering his education and career prospects. In addition to his achievements at Gateway Technical College, Orlowski has secured a spot in the auditor program offered by the state of Wisconsin.

This two-year program offers participants the opportunity to work as paid state employees while receiving continued education to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, with the assurance of a full-time auditor position upon graduation. Orlowski's acceptance into this program is a testament to his hard work and dedication to his courses.

Brady Orlowski's story serves as an inspiration not only to his peers but to anyone striving to reach their goals through hard work, determination, and a willingness to seize every opportunity that comes their way. As he embarks on the next chapter of his life, Orlowski stands as an example of what can be achieved through the opportunities available at ETHS.

Gateway's press release:

<https://www.gtc.edu/news-releases/gateway-leads-state-number-students-taking-dual-credit-courses>