

During my senior year at South Hadley High School, I was not sure about going to college. I was still trying to figure out what I wanted to do in the future. So after my senior year, I stayed at the high school for another year because I was not ready yet and I was afraid of what I was going to do with my life.

During that year, I realized that if I wanted to reach my goals, I needed to work my way up and go to college. So I went on a tour and attended a couple of campus parties at Holyoke Community College (HCC) and decided it was where I wanted to go. During my person-centered planning meeting, I shared my passion for anime art with my college advisor. We came up with a list of courses that would help me reach my goals.

My favorite classes have been Illustration and Printmaking. These classes have helped me to develop my anime characters because it is my dream to become an anime artist.

My interest in anime started when I was in middle school. My favorite television show back then was a Japanese anime show. It was so cool and gave me inspiration to become an artist. I hope to create my own TV show one day.

Larry Bond, my Illustration instructor, gave me freedom to do my own thing and great advice on shading, light, textures, and values. Alix Hegeler, my Printmaking instructor, allowed me to do anime on metal, something I have never done before. It gave me new skills and art experience.

**The Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment (ICE) Programs at colleges and universities in Massachusetts provide dual enrollment transition opportunities for students, ages 18 to 21, with intellectual disabilities and/or autism spectrum disorder.**

**ICE students take college courses for credit or audit, and are encouraged to participate in campus-wide events and clubs. They also explore careers through coursework, community-based internships, and paid employment.**

**In all these experiences, they participate alongside other students attending the college.**



I also enjoy being a member of the Anime Club. I am learning about different media and how anime brings our culture and Japanese culture together.

Once I complete the ICE Program at HCC, I would like to explore a career as an anime artist.

Last year, I took a really challenging electronic media class. When I first got into class, I was very new to technology and really nervous. What on earth was I getting into? But because it had something to do with anime, and I would be writing a book, I really wanted to learn it.

The first month was tough because I was learning all the computer stuff. I lost my flash drive and had to redo everything. So when I got my second flash drive I had to put double the effort to get the job done and get all my ideas down for the book.

I really enjoyed creating all of the pictures and character profiles. When my book finally arrived in the mail, I was thinking that I am going to be famous now! I was thinking everyone might want to buy my book. It's not about the money; I just want to hear everyone's comments and opinions about my story and art.

The book I created for this class, "Peace vs. War," can be viewed at: [www.blurb.com/b/5233458-peace-vs-war](http://www.blurb.com/b/5233458-peace-vs-war)

During the spring semester, I had the opportunity to give tours during the HCC Student Art Show. I was a little nervous about giving everyone the tour and a speech about my art, but my experiences as the mascot in my high school helped me to work the crowds. I am looking forward to this year's art show, and hope my art from my Printmaking, Basic Design, and Drawing Composition classes will be included.

In the fall semester of 2014, I was named to the Dean's List. I didn't really know what the Dean's List was. When my coaches explained it, I realized it was a big honor and I was shocked. I am very proud to be the first HCC student enrolled through the ICE Program to make Dean's List.

I told my friends and they were very happy. It made my family very proud of their son who made history at HCC.

I am just happy right now and trying to see if there will be offers for scholarships to continue my college education or an opportunity to attend the anime conference in Boston because of this award.

At the end of my first year at HCC, I was asked to be the HCC Cougar mascot for our Spring Fling. It had been awhile since I was a mascot--I had been the mascot at my high school for seven years--but I felt ready.

The costume was heavy on that warm and sunny spring day, but overall it was fun! I will do whatever it takes to make the crowds laugh. The new students enjoyed taking pictures with me. I have a lot of school spirit.

The advice I have for other high school students is that college is nothing like high school. It is challenging, but overall you will have fun and learn how to reach your goals. This experience at HCC is really going to help me in the future.

The one thing I can say is have fun, don't be overwhelmed, and talk with your professors. Your college advisor can help you no matter what the situation is. If you have problems, go to her. She has many connections to help you reach your dreams. My coaches have really helped me at HCC, and if I don't need them they are okay with that.

If I didn't have the chance to go to college, I would have been struggling to know what to do. I probably would have



Scott with some of his artwork at his final art critique at Holyoke Community College.

continued in high school for a while until I found a job. HCC gave me an opportunity and a path to find my answers.

### **For more information about the Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Program at HCC:**

[www.hcc.edu/student-services/disability-and-deaf-services/ice-program](http://www.hcc.edu/student-services/disability-and-deaf-services/ice-program)

### **Author Information**

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