Two-year colleges are a great option for students

By Kim Kadrmas

The greatest stressor for high school students is often college and deciding their future. We are constantly told by parents and teachers throughout the years to be prepared for college and get a four year degree, then get a job with that four year degree or get an advanced degree. Personally, I’ve never heard anyone say to me a two-year degree or on the job training is a good option, but it should be considered. It all just depends on what you want to pursue as a career. High school graduates should not feel inferior if they choose to go to a two-year college.

For starters, college is very expensive. Going to a two-year college will save you money and your student loans would be greatly reduced. According to the College Board, the average tuition cost per year at a two-year school is only $3,131, which is just over one-third of the cost per year at a four-year college. Now, it is very common for students to come out of a four year college with over $75,000 in debt. With a two-year college, it would be possible to leave with minimal to no debt.

Since it’s a technical college, it is a much smaller school than most other universities. This means smaller class sizes. You’ll most likely find the largest class to be about thirty students at a two-year school, while at NDSU you could have a class with 200 students. Also with a smaller class, it’s easier to know your professor. If you know your professor well enough, it’ll be easier to come in and ask questions or get help. It will also be easier to get to know your classmates.

Another plus is it being only two-years of school. By the time you’re 20 you could have a great career and be earning money. Many jobs that only require a two-year degree are in high demand right now, making it a lot easier to get a job. Some companies even offer tuition support and a guaranteed job if you sign up for and finish an apprentice program with them. With these jobs being in such demand, most have a higher than average salary — why wouldn’t a high school graduate consider making as much or more money than a four year degree graduate and completing their education at a third of the cost and half the time?

What’s also great about a technical college is you have so many options after graduation. You could get a job and work for a while. If you excel at your job, your employer could possibly offer to pay for your tuition for a four year degree in a specialized area.

Choosing technical college allows you to gain hands on experience at an early age for a much greater economic value than a four year degree. This is a path many students should seriously consider.

Gym class should be elective option for athletes

By Megan Middaugh

P.E. class, the time of day that most students dread and high school athletes find too easy. Wouldn’t it be incredible if all the hard work high school students put into their selected sports counted as their P.E. credit? Not taking a P.E. class would provide more time and avoid unnecessary injuries for these athletes. In addition, removing athletes from P.E. classes would provide a better atmosphere and learning experience in gym class for non-athletes. I think P.E. classes should be offered as an elective to high school athletes rather than required credit for graduation.

Time is something every high schooler is always searching for more of. As a result, without a P.E. class, students would have more time for other classes, such as electives or a study hall. If more students take more classes they actually enjoy or study halls, students will be happier and will have more time to get homework done and study for important tests. If students are happier and better prepared for classes, they will more likely perform better in school.

Furthermore, something that occurs during P.E. class is injuries. High school students who play sports often see P.E. as a joke and tend to mess around during this class. Consequently, this messing around leads to injuries that could prevent these athletes from playing their sports for an extended period of time. If these students didn’t have to take a gym class, fewer injuries would occur and the school would be less likely to be held liable.

Lastly, non-athletes would finally find P.E. class more bearable. We’ve all seen it, a gym class where the trained athletes take charge and leave all the non-athletes on the sidelines to watch. If high school athletes were not taking gym classes, these non-athletes would most likely have a better experience in gym class and get more time to participate.