

# Locker Talk™

## Find the Right Fit

*Choose the right college for you*

By Elizabeth Crouch, Learn More Indiana

There are thousands of colleges and universities in the United States—almost 80 college campuses in Indiana alone—and each one has its own distinct personality. With so many options, it is good to get started early, so you can choose the one that suits your interests best.

**Spencer Toby**, sophomore at **Cathedral High School**, has done just that, already visiting three colleges in Indiana long before he's even taken his SAT Reasoning Test.

"I want to make sure I go someplace where I feel comfortable," Toby said. "There are so many options right here in Indiana that the process can sometimes feel overwhelming. That's why I'm glad I've started visiting colleges. It's given me plenty of time to make the right choice."



Spencer Toby

Colleges love it when high school students visit. If there is a campus in your community or one nearby, ask to visit. If your family is traveling on vacation, ask if you can stop along the way at a college or two. Visits can be scheduled with the admissions office, or you and your family can just wander around the campus.

"It's important for students to go a college that is best for them and not because their friends or teammates are going there," said **DeAirra Goss**, a senior at **Ben Davis High School**.

After visiting over 12 colleges, she has decided to attend **Western Michigan** and continue playing basketball.

"Academics have always come first—basketball is just icing on the cake," Goss said.



DeAirra Goss

Before you visit the campus, **Terry Henry**, College Admissions Counselor at Ben Davis High School, recommends the following:



Terry Henry

- Meet with an admission officer.
- Verify admission requirements.
- Discuss your chances for success.
- Obtain a school calendar and catalog, if you don't already have them.
- Ask about financial aid opportunities, as well as deadlines, forms required, etc.
- Meet with faculty in your area of academic interest.
- Ask questions about academic requirements/offerings.
- Attend a class to get an idea of typical size, teaching style and academic atmosphere.
- Ask about the placement records for graduates in the field you might study.
- Identify career-planning services for undergraduates.
- Tour the campus. Be sure to check out the dorms, dining hall, library, etc.
- Talk to students about the general academic environment and the study commitment necessary for success.
- Find out what student activities (clubs, organizations, intramurals, etc.) are available.
- Inquire about campus life and social activities.
- Investigate transportation options.

For more information about visiting a college campus in Indiana, or for a helpful worksheet you can take with you on a visit, check out [www.learnmoreindiana.org/campus-visits](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org/campus-visits).

For more information on how to get to and through college, visit [www.learnmoreindiana.org](http://www.learnmoreindiana.org) or call 1.800.992.2076



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