

“Once I become a doctor, I can go anywhere in the world and be able to have my hands fix people.”

– Victoria Garrow



HAIL TO THE EARLY COLLEGE STUDENT

Victoria Garrow was always the kid who wanted to get the splinter out.

- High school students are the fastest-growing segment of NMC's enrollment.
- In 2016, the families of area high school students saved more than \$1,000 each through dual-enrollment and Early College programs. Home school-districts pay the tuition, fees and book costs at NMC.
- Collectively, 497 high school students saved more than \$500,000 through the two programs in 2016.
- Comparing average 2017–18 tuition at a four-year Michigan university (\$429 per credit hour) to NMC's (\$104 per contact hour, in-district) shows a quadrupling of savings for individual families and collectively, keeping more than \$2 million in regional household budgets.

Find out more at nmc.edu/dualenroll

The 2017 Elk Rapids High School graduate still aims to help people, but has ratcheted up her ambition—she wants to be a surgeon. And she's got a head start on that goal, thanks to Early College credits she earned at NMC while still in high school. Garrow entered the University of Michigan last fall as a “sophomore and a half.”

Her decision to enroll in Early College, which also included classes at the Career Tech Center, run by the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District, has been pivotal in pointing her toward the future. After a tour of the Career Tech Center, she chose to focus on the Allied Health course sequence. She joined a student group, Health Occupations Students of America, becoming a local and then state officer. Through Rotary, she traveled to Haiti in November 2016, installing water filters on behalf of a group called Pure Water for the World.

“That just really verified that I wanted to be a doctor,” Garrow, 18, said of the Haiti trip. “Once I become a doctor, I can go anywhere in the world and be able to have my hands fix people.”

Her favorite instructor at NMC was Lisa Blackford, from whom she took Abnormal Psychology.

“She had a level of self-confidence that she could hold her own in the class, as far as the other age ranges and life experiences in the class,” Blackford said.

Early College is designed for students to start taking college classes in high school. Students then earn an associate degree in a 13th year of high school. Garrow was planning to follow that path until she won a HAIL scholarship—a full ride—to the University of Michigan.

“It worked out so beautifully, I couldn't say no,” she said. She also credits the Early College experience for making it possible.

“I don't think I would have flourished in that (high school) environment my last two years,” she said. “This just opened up so many avenues.” **N**

