

L-A: It's Happening Here!

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Money is an issue in today's society. We all know it, we all feel it. It's getting harder and harder to continue education after high school because everyone is financially stretched to their limit. The Lewiston-Auburn area has not only recognized this, but also done something about it. Here, people can further their education so that they may go on to careers that will bring in money for them, something everyone wants. Here, people can afford to live their dreams. It's all happening here.

We now have colleges that are not only local, but affordable. We also have options. We have Central Maine Community College, Andover, University of Maine Lewiston-Auburn, and Bates. Now you may wonder why Bates is in the list. Yes, Bates is located in Lewiston, but the college doesn't really have anything in common with the other schools. What Bates does offer to the middle-class citizens of the area is a comparative figure. Bates is so much more expensive than all of the other ones, but offers essentially the same thing: education.

The best thing about all these options is that they each offer unique opportunities to an aspiring student. Take Central Maine Community College, located in Auburn, as our first example. They offer what's called a "Ford Asset" program. This means that once a student graduates from CMCC, they can go on to make \$70,000 a year working for Ford. CMCC also offers what's called the "2+2 program." This ensures that if a student wishes to further their education elsewhere after their two years is over, they will be accepted elsewhere. Central Maine Community College has become a gateway to future educational advances.

Andover College, located in Lewiston, brings its own food-for-thought to the table. They offer courses that many other colleges don't offer. Take, for example, their paralegal studies program. People who are looking for distinctive and out-of-the-ordinary career choices will now have that door to walk through. It's convenient location, downtown Lewiston, makes it more accessible to the every-day person.

Now take University of Maine Lewiston-Auburn. Everyone has heard of the U-Maine campuses and now they have come to us. People who may not be able to afford to go live in Portland or Augusta, can now take many of the same classes right near their home.

I think colleges are what's happening here because they affect everyone. They're beneficial to people fresh out of high school, but also for people who are older, but looking to go back to school and also for immigrants, who have recently found a home here. A lot of people my age probably don't even notice this or picked this topic to write about because they are already immersed in the educational program. Colleges offered in our area are affordable, convenient and not just for people fresh out of high school. I love the fact that people with dreams can now fulfill them. People who have had dreams for years but never had the money to go to college, who now have kids, are able to go. People who came here looking for a world of freedom, now have the freedom to choose what they want to be. I love that. College is happening here in Lewiston-Auburn. It's all happening here.