Options in education

Eileen Morales is participating in the University of San Diego Journalism Mentorship Program, which pairs high school students with college journalism majors attending USD.

The College Avenue Compact for Success provides a path to San Diego State University for Hoover High School students, and many Hoover graduates have gone on to such academic powerhouses as Stanford and University of California campuses.

Clearly, college readiness is important to Hoover educators.

Hoover students learn to produce TV news in their brand new studio.
But success can be measured in many ways, and administrators at Hoover believe that preparing students for a fulfilling future includes more than excellence in academics or college readiness. It is about teaching students necessary skills to cope as adults in everyday life.

Classes like statistics and economics with Michael Reardon help students with money management. This class covers everything from fixing and improving credit issues to balancing checkbooks – skills that are essential for budgeting as an adult.

Karen Perez, who just completed her junior year, said statistics has helped her find reliable products based on percentage rates.

“Our stats teacher has helped us read labels on the back of prescribed medicine and determine the reliability of the product based on surveys,” Perez said. “As a teenager, I think this is an essential life skill because I would like to buy trustworthy goods when shopping in the near future.”

Other opportunities include Associated Student Body and Culinary Arts programs. ASB teaches leadership skills and gets students to move past their timidity.

“ASB has really helped me to get out of my comfort zone,” ASB member Chris Ponce said. “It is important for students to be outgoing and not shy because they need these skills during job interviews. I, for example, want to join the Army, which requires me to have excellent leadership and time-management skills.”
The school’s Culinary Arts program is another example. Pamela Dahlin arranges lessons that help her students with budgeting food expenses.

An emphasis remains on preparing students for the option of seeking a higher education. The College Avenue Compact for Success provides students who meet certain academic requirements guaranteed admission to San Diego State University. An alternative path for Hoover students is attending San Diego City College before SDSU.

Hoover boasts a number of support groups to turn a college vision into a reality, including AVID, an elective class that helps students get ready for post-secondary education, and GEAR Up, a program designed to help low-income students attend college. These classes help individuals in grades nine through 12 embrace a positive mindset about attending universities.

Not only do students receive the necessary skills for success, they also receive the necessary help for education after high school.