



Zac Toth, 19, PARMA

Zachary Toth knows how to do school. He earned a 4.0 cumulative GPA at Parma High School, was class president and president of the school's chapter of the National Honor Society and managed a grueling non-stop sports schedule, playing varsity football for four years (quarterback) and varsity basketball for three.

So when Toth says with certainty, "I want to be a high school history teacher and a football coach," you might sense he has a plan. And you would be right.

Toth, one of 14 recipients of a Tri-C Honors Program Fellowship, will have the first two years of college paid for before he transfers to John Carroll University. He wasn't opposed to going away to a four-year school immediately, but as the last of five children in his family, he wanted to be smart about the money.

Other family members had paved the way for a Tri-C experience, he said. His parents met as Tri-C students; his sister earned her associate degree here, too.

He's looking forward to indulging his passion for American history, which was both naturally ignited in him and stoked by an especially good teacher in high school. He's confident he can handle the classes, and he's a time-management expert.

Still, he knows college represents a big jump in independence. "You're on your own," he says. "You don't get to bring mommy or daddy with you."