Seniors share tips on planning next steps

Huntington – “Do your homework before a college visit,” advised Gateway senior Cami Rock. “Talk to your tour guide and to students who are taking your major.”

This was just one of the tips that a panel of Gateway seniors had for the junior class, as they shared their plans for college, military or specialty training after high school.

Other tips included talking with the financial aid office and asking for more help. If planning an art or architecture major, take a directed study during your senior year to create and assemble your portfolio. Tour schools earlier and consider early decision and early admission options. Look at a range of colleges—public, private, 2-year, 4-year because some private schools can offer a lot of financial help. Try for your ‘reach’ school. Some schools will send you an application fee waiver or give you one if you visit their campus before applying. And apply for every scholarship you are eligible for.

After applying, check your email REGULARLY (including spam and other folders) because more and more colleges are communicating by email. UMASS, for example, no longer sends anything through the mail—it is all done electronically.

Some colleges will make you create accounts for submitting applications and related materials. Keep your passwords organized.

Not everybody was headed off to college in the fall. One student, Joshua Webster, took the ASVAB exam last year and received a high enough score to qualify for enrolling in the air force as a junior. He has had to check in monthly until graduation and do a day a month of personal training. After graduation, he reports to boot camp in Texas.

Brett Turban described the opportunities ahead for him as he heads south to complete lineman training.

Panelists included Diana Tershchuk, Nick Cooper, Emily Warren, Rachel LeBarron, Gabby Goralczyk, Alyssa Donaruma, Cami Rock, Josh Webster and Brett Turban.

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Photo (left to right): Gateway seniors Gabby Goralzyk, Alyssa Donaruma, Cami Rock, Josh Webster and Brett Turban impart lessons learned to the junior class.