College in high school

Local grad halfway through associate degree

When Gabe Campagna graduated high school in May, he was halfway finished with an associate degree from Southern State Community College.

While Campagna, 18, Washington Court House, was attending high school, he was also taking college classes through College Credit Plus, a program that allows local high school students to begin getting a college degree before they've graduated — at no cost.

While many students graduate high school and attend a four-year university to get a bachelor's degree, Campagna said he was happy to break the mold.

"It feels great," he said. "Now that I've graduated high school, I just have a couple more steps to go and I'll be done with my associate degree... and it's free."

Campagna is not alone. At Southern State's commencement