In 2005, the percentage of Canton City’s young adults with some college or an associate degree was 33%. In addition, only 12.5% of its adults had earned a bachelor’s degree or higher, and 81% of its students were in poverty. Canton’s poorest neighborhoods needed a compelling example that college was possible.

In response, the Canton City School District, Stark State College, the Canton Professional Educators Association and the Stark Education Partnership came together in 2005 to establish Timken Early College High School (TECHS) (formerly known as Canton Early College High School). Startup funding for the school was provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through KnowledgeWorks and the State of Ohio.

From the onset, TECHS was envisioned not just as a school, but as a culture shifting community “proof-point” that low income, first generation, inner city students can be successful with college-level work. Further, TECHS has afforded students an opportunity to earn both a diploma and an associate degree during their high school career. In 2016 (the latest figures available), the percentage of Canton’s young adults with some college or higher was up to 43% and 14.5% of its adults had earned a bachelor’s degree or higher.

TECHS has demonstrated that urban, low income, first generation students can succeed in a rigorous academic program and earn both a diploma and an associate degree upon their graduation from high school.

Acknowledgments
The Stark Education Partnership would like to acknowledge Ken Brunner, Principal, Timken Early College High School, for his assistance in supplying information and/or data for this report.

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400 Market Ave N, Suite B, Canton, Ohio 44702
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1 U.S. Census designation of young adults as 18 to 24 years. Percentages from 2005 and 2011 American Community Survey.
2 Ohio Department of Education District Poverty Typology, 2013.
3 U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey 1-year estimates.
4 U.S. Census 2015 American Community Survey
8 Based on results for the Class of 2009-2017

Timken Early College High School

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8 Based on results for the Class of 2009-2017
1 - Graduating High School on Time
All 469 students who graduated TECHS have done so on-time. This compares to the combined Ohio on-time graduation rate of 81% for early college high schools (ECHS).

What happens to those who don’t remain in TECHS? Of the 44 students from the class of 2017 who did not persist in TECHS, 100% graduated on time from high school demonstrating the value of the early college experience.

2 - Graduating with College Credit
All – 100% – of TECHS graduates have earned college credit compared to the national ECHS average of 94%.

Further, every TECHS graduate has earned at least a semester of credit compared to the national ECHS average of 39%. The average number of hours earned by early college graduates across the nation is 36, while in TECHS the average is 60.

3 - Graduating with an Associate Degree
Of the 469 graduates of TECHS since 2009, 302 have earned associate degrees. This 64% success rate is more than twice the national average.

3 Key Indicators of Early College Success

More Success Indicators

Not One, But Two Degrees
Thirty percent of the Class of 2017 (18 students) graduated with two associate degrees along with a high school diploma, a 2% increase from 2016.

Beyond Early College High School
In 2010, TECHS adopted a new emphasis on students earning bachelor’s degrees. Of the Class of 2017, 82% plan to pursue college.

30% of the Class of 2017 Earned two associate degrees upon graduation

82% of the Class of 2017 Plan to pursue additional college degrees

Conclusion: Nine Years of Outstanding Value

What are the Economic Benefits of Higher Education for Individuals and Society?
According to Education Pays 2016:

• Individuals with higher levels of education earn more, pay more taxes, and are more likely to be employed.
• College education increases the chance that adults will move up the socioeconomic ladder and reduces the chance that adults will rely on public assistance.
• College education is associated with healthier lifestyles and reduced health care costs.

Since 2009, there have been 469 TECHS graduates. Based on the potential median earnings for individuals with some college and/or an associate degree(s), TECHS graduates could collectively earn an additional $130,832,000 of net income and pay an additional $46,156,000 in taxes over their lifetime compared to graduates with only a high school diploma. The potential economic value only increases as students earn more degrees.

$176,988,000
Potential ADDITIONAL Lifetime Net Income and Taxes
Paid by 469 TECHS Students