



Ohio Senate
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E 4 ME ACTS AS DOORWAY TO ONLINE LEARNING

Furthering your education is an admirable goal, but it is often a difficult one to attain. There are a number of obstacles that can stand in the way from time constraints to financial constraints to lack of information regarding appropriate and available courses and how to enroll. Now, the Ohio Learning Network (OLN) offers a free solution that is designed to help prospective students overcome the obstacles that stand in their way and easily navigate the world of online learning. E 4 ME is a pilot project initiated last September by OLN to provide a free, non-credit introduction to online courses offered by Ohio colleges and universities.

Anyone with a computer and Internet access can enroll in the self-paced course that can be completed in as little as eight hours or spread out over as many as four weeks. You don't have to be a computer wizard to enroll – all you need are basic email and Internet browsing abilities. E 4 ME offers new classes every month that are guided by instructors who lead students through lessons, readings and quizzes. The coursework is designed to help students learn what skills are necessary to succeed in online courses as well as to introduce them to the various fields of study they can pursue. It's a useful tool for those who are interested in exploring new career paths, learning time management skills and enhancing their study skills.

In addition to learning how to participate in online courses, E 4 ME can translate into financial savings when it comes time to enroll in for-credit online classes at selected institutions and businesses. Upon completing the E 4 ME course, students will receive a Certificate of Completion. This certificate entitles students to certain fee waivers and

tuition reductions at participating institutions and gift certificates and discounts at participating campus bookstores. To learn more about the benefits of the E 4 ME program, visit the website at www.E4MEOHIO.org.

Once you've completed the E 4 ME program, the next step is to visit the OLN website to learn about the courses and degree programs offered online by accredited universities and colleges in Ohio. The OLN website, at www.ohiolearns.org, acts as a statewide course catalog of distance learning courses and degrees. It's the easiest way to search online course and degree offerings at Ohio universities.

E 4 ME is the perfect starting point for Ohioans who are looking to earn a degree or further their education through online courses. It's an invaluable tool that could benefit many Ohioans in their quest to earn a college degree. If you have questions about E 4 ME, you can visit the website (www.E4MEOHIO.org) or email the program at e4meohio@oln.org. You can also feel free to contact me at (614) 466-8076 or via U.S. mail at Senator Joy Padgett, Statehouse, Columbus, Ohio 43215. If you prefer, I am also available via E-mail at SD20@mailr.sen.state.oh.us.