



[Congressman goes to NCHS](#)

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Standing in front of a class of about 25 New Castle High School students, U.S. Rep. Mike Pence admitted he was having flashbacks.

Before becoming a congressman, Pence worked in college admissions for Hanover. As he visited a New Castle economics class on Friday, he fielded questions from students, and some of them wanted Pence's guidance for their future.

"Whatever your dream is," Pence told the class at one point, "the first thing is being willing to say what it is."

Pence spent about 30 minutes with teacher Lyndsey Davis' high school economics class on Friday. For most of that time, Pence took questions about any topic from the students. They asked about his thoughts on the tea party, they asked about right to work and some simply asked for his help.

In addition to visiting the economics class, Pence visited mayor's offices in New Castle, Rushville, Columbus and Anderson on Friday.

Pence said he thought it would also be good to make a stop at a high school class. And during the discussion, Pence, who's running for governor this year, noted that the event wasn't a campaign stop.

A handful of New Castle seniors had questions for Pence on Friday. One of them was Junior Lainey Catron who told the congressman she's interested in broadcast journalism and atmospheric science. She wanted his opinion on how to move forward into college.

Pence recommended that Catron reach out to people who are already in broadcasting. He added that it was good that Catron was willing to talk openly about her dreams.

"When I was your age I actually wanted to be a congressman," Pence told the class. "But it was like pulling teeth to tell anyone."

Pence also took a question from NCHS Principal Chris Walker. Walker asked the congressman what he would advise seniors who are going onto college but don't know what to study while there.

Pence said he would encourage students without a good idea of what to study to pursue a liberal arts education.

But he said all of the students should search their own hearts for what they want to do.

"If you really feel you have a missile lock on where you want to head, then by all means go after it," he said.

Not all of the questions on Friday were about education and college. One student asked Pence to explain what right to work is.

Pence said right to work, which is being debated at the Indiana Statehouse this week, is about "personal freedom."

He told the class that right to work is about giving people the choice whether they want to be union members.

"I will fight just as hard for your right to join a union as I will for your right not to join a union," Pence added.

Another student, senior Jack Lynch, asked Pence which of Gov. Mitch Daniels' economic

policies he would continue and which he would change.

"Everything begins with fiscal responsibility," Pence said. "So far this administration has done a brilliant job with fiscal responsibility.

"I strongly support the government reforms and the education reforms that have been advanced."

If elected governor, Pence said his focus would be "all on growth."

After the class dismissed on Friday afternoon, Lynch stuck around for a few minutes to talk to Pence.

Lynch told Pence he hopes to work in government one day. After the talk, Lynch said Pence's visit reignited his passion.

"I though it was overall very enlightening," he said.