

The high school graduates of 2010 are true members of the Internet generation. The World Wide Web was introduced in 1991, the year many of us were born. Since then, the Internet has been an ever constant and expanding presence in our lives.

It is predicted that by 2015, there will be over 285 million Internet users in the United States, and over 80% of office workers will use PCs. The typical high school student has already used the internet to research projects, check grades and communicate with teachers. The introduction of social networking sites such as Facebook, allows us to keep in touch with family and friends. Music and other forms of entertainment online are competing with television and radio. There are also hundreds of college web sites available to assist in our college selection. All of these applications are particularly valuable to rural youth with limited access to big city advantages.

As we look forward to college, the Internet will play an even more important role. In addition to being an invaluable research tool, entire classes can be taken online without ever stepping into a classroom.

Assignments can be submitted through college class sites, with e-mail allowing individual communication with professors still possible as class sizes increase.

Internet companies offer many careers, especially in the area of web site development. Almost every industry now requires basic computer and internet research skills. Searching for those jobs can be done from the comfort of your own home with most postings online. Many companies now require electronic applications, and you can market your skills through your own web site.

Internet use expands daily, including social, political and economic activities of people all over the world. It will certainly continue to play an important role in my future life and career.

-Matthew Beer