The World of Work

Objectives
Students will be able to:

- Understand the current realities of the economy and the job market
- Understand the importance of long-term planning and goal setting

Materials Needed

- White board or poster paper and markers for large group discussions
- Handout or online information about employment realities or the “new world of work.”
- Handout of a multiple-step or layered career planning model (optional)
  - CareerOneStop: www.careeronestop.org/TridionMultimedia/flyer%20pyramid%20matrix03152012_tcm24-10702.pdf
  - “Prepare for a Career Interactive Chart” on MCIS: http://mncis.intocareers.org
    {subscription required}

Instructions
This group discussion activity is for teen and adults who have experience or knowledge of today’s job market.

1. Write “The World of Work” topics on the board (see below)

2. Using the board and/or a handout with the topics, ask for group input related to each topic. Write their responses on the board.
   a. Is the job market the same today as it was 10 or 20 years ago? What is different?
   b. What does it take to get a high-paying job or to get a promotion? What used to be required 20 years ago?
   c. Is it true that once you get a job, most people don’t change jobs or companies very often? How important is it to keep up with your job search skills?
d. Are there things beyond your control that might lead to you losing your job? Why do people get laid off?
e. What types of workers get raises and promotions?
f. Is it true that once you get a degree, you’re done with learning?
g. Who is in charge of your career? Who has the most influence over when you get a promotion or learn new skills?

3. After all of the topics have been addressed, refer to the “New World of Work” content for more information.

4. Use the information shared to help students make 1-3 goals that will help them in the new world of work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World of Work Topics</th>
<th>Group Input</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Education and training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Job search skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Job changes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Job security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Motivation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluation of Learning

- Quiz students on world of work realities.
- Assess students’ participation in discussion.
- Students will gain clarity about their career goals.
- Activities needed to progress through the career planning steps can be included in an Individualized Learning Plan or portfolio.

Enhanced Learning

- Revisit the world of work concepts at the end to help students identify the knowledge and awareness they have gained.
- Have students create a multimedia project or write a paper about the current job market or the economy.
- Use the Minnesota Programs of Study website to explore career pathways and make long-term education and career goals (www.mnprogramsofstudy.org).
- Assess student’s soft skills and other work skills. Lead discussion and activities to help them match their skills to employer expectations.
- Lead a discussion about the importance of career management as a life-long process (www.jobseekersguide.org/US/what-is-career-management).
- Share with class your experiences in the job market and your career planning process.
- Invite guest speakers to talk about their career journeys and the importance of goal setting.
- Invite employers, economist or workforce professionals to discuss the world of work, the importance of career management, and employer expectations.