The Ladder to Success

Objectives

- Make connections between past experiences and future success
- Understand career pathways and related careers

Create a Plan & Set Goals

Audience: Awareness
Length: 45-30 minutes

Materials Needed

- Video, print or online biographies or employment histories of famous people with both traditional and unconventional career trajectories.
- Information about career pathways (www.mnprogramsofstudy.org or www.iseek.org/careers/pathways.html) or career ladders.

Instructions

1. Have students participate in a discussion of how past experiences can influence a person's current life situation or career. Relate this discussion to career pathways.

2. Have students read a biography and create a timeline of the person's life, noting previous employment.

3. Students can create a multimedia presentation or report on the career timeline including information about the person's career plans.
   - How did the person's previous life experiences or work history affect future success?
   - Did the person's education or career goals change in life? How did they restart with new goals?
   - What challenges did the person overcome in order to make their goals?
   - What resources or information helped the person to make decisions?
   - Who helped or supported the person at different points in life?
   - What personality traits helped the person to achieve success?
Evaluation of Learning

- Grade the biography reports
- The completion of a career goals worksheet can be part of an Individualized Learning Plan or portfolio.

Enhanced Learning

- Have students discuss what life and career events have influenced their family members or mentors. Talk about how they overcame challenges.
- Have students use Minnesota Programs of Study website (www.mnprogramsofstudy.org) to create a pathway for a chosen occupation. What occupations or education/training help prepare for that occupation? What are the options for advancement?
- Students might follow-up by engaging family members in a discussion of past jobs to determine the ways in which past jobs prepared them or didn't prepare them for their current position.