

College Positive Resources for Vocational & Technical Programs

The transition to postsecondary education is an exciting yet challenging time in a youth's life. There are resources and options available for everyone to help them through the process. Below are resources specifically for youth who are interested in vocational or technical programs to prepare for a profession. College Positive Volunteers can use this information to aid in promoting and educating post-secondary options beyond the option of a 4-year university to the youth they serve.

<http://www2.ed.gov/students/prep/college/consumerinfo/choosing.html>

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SCHOOL

U.S. Department of Education has resources available to help youth choose the right school to meet career goals. It will also help determine if a school is accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or licensed by the state in which it is located:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/choosing-schools>

Federal Trade Commission has available more resources dealing with choosing a career or vocational school. Here, you can find questions you should explore about programs before enrollment:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/products/pro13.shtm>

SEARCHING FOR PROGRAMS

Whether youth are looking for opportunities in the medical field, real estate, or technological training, the following sites will help identify education opportunities.

- U.S. Department of Education Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs
<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>
- Council for Higher Education Accreditation Database
<http://www.chea.org/default.asp?link=3> & select the "Search accredited institutions and programs"
- The RWM Vocational Schools Database (this is a database of Private Postsecondary Vocational Schools organized by both state and training occupation)
<http://www.rwm.org/>
- U.S. Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship: Access to 1,000 career areas!
The Program Sponsors Database (<http://www.dol.gov/featured/apprenticeship/find-opportunities>) allows you to search through over 53,000 different apprenticeship opportunities by state and county.
- Career One Stop- Pathways to Career Success (has links to information about Green Careers, Workforce Credentials, and Industry Information)
<http://www.careeronestop.org/StudentsandCareerAdvisors/StudentsandCareerAdvisors.aspx>.
The "Find Training" section allows you to search training, certification, college, and apprenticeship opportunities: <http://www.careeronestop.org/FindTraining/find-training.aspx>

PUBLICATIONS

"Connecting jobs to education", written by Lisa Hudson, describes the job market, and education and training opportunities including apprenticeship programs and occupational education in high schools.

<http://issues.org/24-4/realnumbers-25/>

The “Is Distance Education for you?” publication by the Distance Education and Training Council may answer questions about whether or not online learning is beneficial for your career goals.

<http://acacia.edu/sites/default/files/Is%20Distance%20Education%20for%20You%207-08.pdf>

“A Student’s Guide to Transfer Credit” provides resources to help students understand the transferring of credit between institutions. <http://www.deac.org/Student-Center/Transfer-Of-Credit.aspx>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR PROGRAMS

Job Corps is a free education and training program providing career skills, high school diploma or GED, and career advising. Eligible students must be at least 16 years of age and demonstrate financial need. To learn more about the Job Corps programs, call 1(800) 733-5627 or explore Job Corps Centers in your state at <https://recruiting.jobcorps.gov/Home/Locations>

The **YouthBuild** program targets out-of-school youth ages 16 - 24 and provides an alternative education pathway that encourages at-risk youth to obtain a high school diploma or GED credential and advance toward post-secondary education or employment. YouthBuild participants include youth who have been adjudicated, are aging out of foster care, and are low-income.

Career Opportunities can be found at: <https://www.youthbuild.org/career-opportunities>

The directory for locations of YouthBuild: <https://www.youthbuild.org/program-directory>

Summer Jobs Initiative involves the U.S. Department of Labor and partners such as business leaders, elected officials and nonprofits to create, publicize and fill 100,000 jobs for low-income, young people age 16-24.

Summer jobs for youth who are looking to get a jumpstart on their career can be found at:

<http://www.dol.gov/summerjobs/Youth.htm>

VOLUNTEER AS A PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT

Studies by CNCS (2008) have shown that volunteering actually leads to higher employability—especially for those from low-income households and those who come from rural areas. You can encourage the students to volunteer for an organization that they see as a potential career, or to volunteer to work on something they are interested in learning more about. This way they will gain experience and build a strong background in the work. It is important to have a loose definition of what “counts” as volunteering. What most employers and admissions committees look out for is *meaningful volunteering*. This can include something as simple as helping family on a daily basis. The quality is found to be more important than the quantity. So establishing a laundry list of service sites will not nearly be as effective. After all, this is for the authentic development of the individual. This development will give them confidence in their identity, values, and skills in the long run.

Help the individual you are working with look for volunteer opportunities near them!

Last Updated on February 9, 2016

Please Contact Campus Compact with questions or to share more information.