



Awareness Activities

Awareness activities introduce K-12 students to various postsecondary pathways through hands-on activities and simulations. Choose activities that fit your students, resources, time and staff. Recognize that you can use multiple activities at once, or use different activities at different times.

Awareness Activity	Description	Ideas for implementation and variations
College Zone (K-8)	Your program can “adopt” a college for the year. Decorate your program space or display college banners, posters, mascots and objects when possible. Once a week or month, have students learn a new theme or topic related to the college. Ideas include famous alumni, sports teams, academic areas, extracurricular activities, student life, special events, songs/chants, campus map.	Change It Up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each grade or program group can adopt a different college. • Each week or month could feature a different college.
College Visit (K-12)	Go on a field trip to a local college or university. Arrange for meetings with college professors or college students who will talk with your students. Include fun activities such as “a day in the life” of a college student, a scavenger hunt or a behind-the-scenes tour to interesting places on campus.	Change It Up: Go on a virtual field trip and follow up with a virtual Q&A session with a college student or professor through Skype, Google Hangout or Facetime.
Read Alouds (K-5)	Do a read aloud of a book that will help students imagine the college life and ask questions related to college. Follow up the reading with discussion and comprehension activities that connect the book to students’ expectations, dreams and goals.	Sample Books: <i>Mahalia Mouse Goes to College</i> by John Lithgow (K-3) <i>Judy Moody Goes to College</i> by Megan McDonald (3-5)
College Collage (3-8)	Have students look through various college brochures to explore schools and learn about their features and resources. As they select and cut out pictures for their collage, they can make choices about what they would like in their future college.	
Alphabet Book: A to Z With Careers (K-3)	Students make a class alphabet book about careers. Help students brainstorm a list of careers from A-Z. Students can be assigned specific careers to define and/or illustrate.	Change It Up: Each student can make his or her own mini alphabet book about careers.





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Career Bingo (K-8)	Create bingo sheets that represent career fields or clusters (e.g., Agriculture, Health, Education, Science, Math, Business). Each card should have various jobs in that field/cluster written or illustrated in the squares. Distribute beans/coins/markers for students to place on the card when certain careers are called out. The first student to complete a row wins!	Change It Up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student can create their own bingo sheets. • Have the winner define the jobs in the winning row.
Careers in the Community (K-5)	Each week or month, students read a book about a different job in the community. Students can discuss skills, challenges, education and experiences related to each job. Follow up art activities include creating a bulletin board display or making bookmarks.	
Career Day (3-12)	Invite guest speakers or a panel of people representing a variety of careers or one specific career field to visit your program. Have students prepare questions in advance to ask after presentation(s).	Change It Up: Arrange for Career Day to happen on-site at a local business or nonprofit organization so students may also tour the work facilities.
Career Road Map (3-12)	Students will create a life map of career goals and dreams. Students can write or draw different points in their future journey. Consider using a career pathways resource to help students be more aware of the steps related to each career field.	Change It Up: Students interview a staff member, volunteer, family member or community member, then map the person's career path.
Career Stations (K-5)	Create activity stations where students can explore a variety of careers. Each station can feature a job and/or career field, and offer a hands-on skills activity related to that job.	Business example: Run a mock grocery store using toy money and items with price tags
Career Town (K-5)	Students can explore careers and related topics using an online interactive platform: http://www.vacareerview.org/k5/play-it/career-town/main.cfm	
Career Jeopardy (K-12)	Create categories and clues for various jobs, roles and tasks, and have teams guess the correct answers. Use the Minot CTE Career Jeopardy website to play this game online and to find questions related to the 16 career clusters: http://pages.minot.k12.nd.us/votech/File/Jeopardy.htm	

