Career Exploration in Afterschool
Special Topic Workshop

February 27, 2020
Career Exploration in Illinois Afterschool Programs
Career Exploration in Afterschool
Career Awareness

- Learn about work
- Gain exposure to potential careers
Career Exploration

- Identify students’ interests
- Learn about career requirements
Career Readiness

- Identify career options based on students’ interests
- Practice skills through work experiences
- Establish career goals
Panelists

• **Renee Hawthorne**
  Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District 163

• **Autumn Berg**
  Chicago Public Schools

• **Michael Hannan**
  Alternative Schools Network
Priming Students for Future Success

Kelly Fair, Founder and Executive Director
Polished Pebbles Mentoring Program
Lunchtime!
Strategies for Career Awareness, Exploration, and Readiness
Debrief
# Career Exploration Strategies

<table>
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<th>Career Awareness (Elementary)</th>
<th>Career Exploration (Middle School)</th>
<th>Career Readiness (High School)</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Introduce work concept</td>
<td>• Explore students’ interests</td>
<td>• Develop career and employability (21st Century) skills</td>
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<td>• Introduce potential careers</td>
<td>• Develop understanding of career requirements</td>
<td>• Provide opportunities to practice skills and experience work</td>
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Career Exploration Resources: A Quick Tour

Illinois PaCE Postsecondary and Career Expectations

Each student should have an individualized learning plan to help make decisions about career and post-secondary (PS) education or training, to plan a course of study, and to make financial aid assessments with family members.

Career Exploration Resources: A Quick Tour

https://www.isbe.net/Documents/PaCE_Revisions.pdf
PaCE Student Checklist

8TH GRADE

Career
- Identify potential careers you are interested in. To help you identify a career of interest, you can complete a survey at studentportal.isac.org/resources > Illinois WorkNet > Skills and Interests.
- A career cluster is a group of jobs that are related by skills or products. Each cluster has classes or training opportunities to prepare you for a career in that cluster. To explore the idea of career clusters, go to studentportal.isac.org/resources > Illinois WorkNet > Careers, Wages and Trends.
- Research careers you are interested in: what the job responsibilities are for each career, and what kind of education and skills are needed.
- Speak with someone from a career you are interested in and ask them about their favorite and least favorite part of their job, as well as how much education is needed for their job.

Money
- Ask someone you know that went to college (teacher, family member, etc.) about grants, scholarships, loans, and working while attending college. How did they find the money to pay for college?

College
- Create a plan with potential classes you need and want to take in high school to prepare for college. Think of taking interesting and challenging classes to explore your interests.
- Talk to your school counselor, teacher, or family member about how community service and extracurricular activities can help you explore your college and career goals.

https://www.isac.org/pace/documents/PACE-Student-Checklist.pdf?v2
Career Station Planner — Career Awareness

Career stations are activity stations where K-5 students can explore a variety of careers through hands-on learning. Each station features a job and/or career field and a hands-on skills activity related to that job.

Decide on a theme for each station, and specify the learning objectives in the planning stage. Consider using the 16 career clusters in the National Career Clusters Framework. These represent more than 79 career pathways that help students navigate their way to greater success in college and career. For more details about the clusters, go to http://www.careerette.org/career-clusters.

Make stations available at set times or during homework time, when students who have no homework, finish early or want a break can visit them.

Here are some station themes and ideas to help you get started.

**Grades K-3**

*Health Sciences:* Give students materials to run a clinic such as Doctor’s kit, with stuffed animals or dolls as patients

https://y4y.ed.gov/tools/career-station-planner
Careers Are Everywhere Workbook — Career Awareness

https://lmci.state.tx.us/shared/PDFs/CareerActivitiesBook.pdf
Illinois workNet Skill and Interest Surveys — Career Exploration

https://www.illinoisworknet.com/explore/Pages/SkillandInterestSurveys.aspx
Illinois Pathways — Career Exploration and Readiness

https://www.illinoisworknet.com/ilpathways/Pages/default.aspx
ACCOUNTING CLERKS

Business Management and Administration > Accounting Clerks > Skills and Abilities

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

Bookkeeping and accounting clerks

COMMUNICATE

- Understand spoken information
- Understand written information
- Write clearly so other people can understand
- Speak clearly so listeners can understand
- Listen to others and ask questions
- Read and understand work-related materials

REASON AND PROBLEM SOLVE

- Notice when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong
- Analyze ideas and use logic to determine their strengths and weaknesses
- Develop rules that group items in various ways
- Combine several pieces of information and draw conclusions
- Follow guidelines to arrange objects or actions in a certain order
- Use reasoning to discover answers to problems
- Concentrate and not be distracted while performing a task
ISAC Student Job Board

https://studentportal.isac.org/jobs/jobs/
Career Strategies Discussion

How does career exploration fit in with your afterschool program goals?

How might you design your career exploration program with intentionality and purpose to align with your afterschool program goals?
Career Strategies Discussion

What needs are there in your community that suggest students in your program would benefit from career exploration?

How do you ensure that the career exploration strategies you use are relevant for your afterschool population?
Career Strategies Discussion

What are some of the common pitfalls or needs associated with some of the career exploration strategies you want to use?

How can you overcome these pitfalls?
Incorporating Career Exploration Strategies
Design Thinking

A creative, human-centered approach to problem-solving

- Empathy
- Insight
- Brainstorming (Ideation)
- Prototyping
- Testing
- Refining
Design Thinking In Action

- Identify an implementation strategy
- Discuss strategy with program stakeholders
- Brainstorm implementation approaches
Afterschool Campaign Spotlight Activity

- Select one strategy per table
- Identify medium for campaign spotlight
- Develop campaign spotlight
Career Exploration Campaign Spotlights
Career Exploration Campaign Spotlights

- What did you like most about the campaign spotlight?
- Is there more information you wanted or needed?
- Would you participate or support the program?
21st CCLC Community of Practice
2020 Regional Forums

Northern Region
West Aurora School District 129 Office, Aurora, IL
April 23, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Southern Region
Mt. Vernon Regional Office of Education, Mt. Vernon, IL
April 28, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m

Central Region
Glen Oak Community Learning Center, Peoria, IL
April 30, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Cook County and Surrounding Areas Region
Chicago Public Schools Garfield Park Office, Chicago, IL
April 30, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m