



Dear Parent:

Making career plans is an important part of high school, but it can be a challenge ...

- Is your student wondering what courses to select for next year?
- Are you wondering how to answer his or her questions about postsecondary education and careers?
- Is your student having trouble choosing a career path?
- Are you wondering what jobs will be available to him or her close to home?

The Central Pennsylvania Gold Medal Initiative developed this toolkit to help you answer these and many other questions that are sure to come up as you walk your student through the maze of selecting the right high school courses now for a rewarding career or further education experience later. We understand that parents like you want information to help make career related decisions with your son or daughter that will pay off.

In this toolkit, you will find a wealth of resources, including information on making school count, how Pennsylvania State standards for career education and work can affect your child's school experience, exploring careers and the importance of your involvement in the process. We have included information on "hot" jobs in science, technology, engineering and math. You will also find information on WorkKeys®, a nationally recognized skills assessment program endorsed by over 300 local employers. And speaking of local employers, if your student is hoping to stay close to home and still have a rewarding career, you will want to check out "A Look at the Workforce in Central Pennsylvania" for the kinds of jobs that will be in demand here over the next several years.

Whether you are helping your student prepare for entrance into the workforce or a college experience, we hope that you will take time to read the information in this kit and use it to start a conversation with your student. After all, many experts agree that as a parent, you have the greatest influence on your child's career decisions!

Good luck!

The Central Pennsylvania Gold Medal Initiative

The Gold Medal Initiative is made possible by funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry and by the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC). For more information and resources from the Gold Medal Initiative and CPWDC, please visit www.cpwdc.org.