Chapter 1: About WISCareers

HISTORY
The Center on Education and Work has a long history of providing career development products in the state. It was started with Federal Grants in 1975. By early 1980 the Legislature designated Wisconsin Careers (originally, Wisconsin Career Information System) the official state career system. The system evolved as technology changed, with the delivery platform going from mainframe computers to Apple IIs to PCs to Macs to Windows and most recently to the Internet.

Over the course of our history our purpose has been inherent in our mission statement: To foster lifelong career development, a meaningful work life, and a sound economic future for all Wisconsin residents. Efforts to encourage this process are fueled by the belief that career development is vital for students and adults, especially in this ever-changing world.
INNOVATIONS
The Center on Education and Work has always been on the forefront of technology by providing Wisconsin with Career Visions, the first multimedia career information system in the country. We continue to be a leader in developing innovative career development products, delivering high-quality career information about Wisconsin and the nation, and providing training and technical assistance to counselors and career development facilitators in the field. Another innovation, the WISCareers website, became operational in spring 2000. People all over the state use this information resource and valuable tool for career exploration and life planning.

WHAT IS THE WISCareers WEBSITE?
The WISCareers website is Wisconsin’s premier career development resource. Wisconsin residents use this information resource and valuable tool for career exploration and planning. Because it is Internet-based, WISCareers is available to users anytime, anywhere.

Students/clients can use the site to gain self-awareness, explore potentials, and shape their future lives. Areas covered on the site include assessments, occupations, educational options, budgeting, job-seeking and job-keeping skills. Within each of these areas, a vast range of topics, links, and activities can be utilized. Designed for multiple learning styles, our website encourages students/clients to ask important questions about life, careers, and what place they want to have in the world.

WISCareers supports education and career development professionals by offering the tools, activities, and resources that open up the world of work and potentials of life to their students. This top-performing Internet site helps you to equip those you serve with vital information needed as they explore the world of work and what their place will be in it. We aim to deliver a creative vehicle for learning that allows you and your students to get where you want to go.

FOR PROFESSIONALS, WE PROVIDE:
• Lesson plans coded to Wisconsin Learning Standards, Wisconsin Comprehensive Counseling Standards, SCANS, and others to help you to integrate career development into the classroom.
• Mechanisms that allow professionals to easily post messages, assignments, and announcements for students, individually or as a group.
• News and current information pertinent to career development education.
• A paperless alternative to traditional documentation and tracking.
• Regional and Webinar training options to every professional subscriber.

FOR STUDENTS/CLIENTS, THE SITE OFFERS:
• Comprehensive lists of occupations.
• Listing of schools in the U.S., with links to school home pages and on-line applications.
• Resources to check out schools by majors/degrees and other specific criteria.
• Comprehensive list of Wisconsin employers.
• Validated assessments to build career- and self-awareness.
• Links to hundreds of useful career development sites.
• Resume and Cover Letter modules to help build real world skills.
• An Interview module to help build job interview skills.
• A Budget Builder program to develop financial planning skills.
• Apprenticeship information and job seeking tools and resources.
• Extensive Wisconsin and national labor market information, including wage and employment statistics.
• Job-hunting links to DWD, Wisconsin JobNet, Job Search, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, Inc. (WCCF), and the DPI Job Search site.
• Individual accounts for each student/client to create an ILP/ePortfolio.
• Fun-based learning with games, polls, and career themes on the home page.
• An advertising-free site.
• Materials created and supported by education/career development professionals.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES
In the following chapters, you will find a wealth of information for site administrators and professionals. You will learn how to: set up accounts, sign up for trainings and webinars, use WISCareers in the classroom, find opportunities for professional development, access site support, and reference Frequently Asked Questions. Not only can you access Middle and High School Student sites, but you may also have features to track student usage, help establish their ILP/ePortfolios, and take advantage of the electronic Message Board.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Software programs, network connections, and other hardware challenges can interfere with your access to a website. It’s important for you to get in touch with us when you have questions about WISCareers. Our Technical Support department can be reached toll-free at 1-800-862-1071. Our hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. You may call before or after our regular hours and leave a message on our voice mail system. Before you call, see if your issue is addressed in the Frequently Asked Questions section. You can also get support by sending an email to wctech@education.wisc.edu.

ON-SITE TECHNICAL SUPPORT
On-site technical support may be provided at a rate of $150 per hour plus travel expenses.

NON-WORKING WEB LINKS
We have no control over content in the links we provide to external Internet sites, though we check them periodically. Links can be changed or removed by the owner at any time. If you come across one that doesn’t work, please send the specifics to us by using the Feedback link found at the bottom of any of our web pages.

FEEDBACK
We always welcome feedback about your experience on WISCareers. To make a comment or a suggestion about our website, or to report a problem to our support staff, simply click on “Feedback” within the Site Support menu on the Professional Site. If you are elsewhere on the site, look for the Feedback link in the footer at the bottom of each page. If reporting a problem, in your comments please include details on your computer system and browser.