Director's Notes

This year has been eventful here at The Center on Education and Work. Many of you are using the Individualized Learning Plans/ePortfolio (ILPs) with your students and there has been a buzz among schools that are using it with parent conferences.

Do check out our Afternoon Tea Conversation Series (cew.wisc.edu/tea) to learn career interest assessment, using career information systems and other informative conversations with nationally recognized scholars.

We were fortunate to receive a contract to localize our WISCareers system for the country of Singapore and this has allowed us to freshen up our look and add some exciting new features. Beginning this Fall and extending throughout the next year we will be making the changes - we will send you a schedule of the launch dates later this summer.

We are working closely with WISTEM.org to expand our WC-Connections to focus on STEM careers (STEM = Science, technology, engineering, and math).

We are also working with the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) to study the impact of ILPs on career development and workforce development. We will be presenting some of the results at our CEW Careers Conference in January.

Our Summer Institute is in its second year and is designed to help you gather a team of educators together to expand the ILP implementation throughout the school. In the future we hope to offer scholarships to help schools cover the costs. Check out our website for more information.

http://wiscareers.wisc.edu/decdc/overview.aspx

We continue to seek ways to get our system out to the Wisconsin community, especially as the economic conditions continue.

On behalf of all of us at Wisconsin Careers and the Center on Education and Work, thank you for your continued support, and be sure to stay safe.

V. Scott Solberg
Associate Director of Research
Wisconsin Careers Director
Center on Education and Work

Pricing for Next Year?

With today’s falling economy, many of you are worried about funding WISCareers for 2009-2010. Please don’t fret, for we are not-for-profit and we are dedicated to education. We are actively seeking ways to reduce our prices, and we wanted to let you know that we have decided not to raise our prices for next year. When renewing your subscription, your price for the 2009-2010 school year will be the same as the price you paid for the 2008-2009 school year. It’s that simple!

Where Did My Catalog Go?

Wisconsin Careers is going green and will no longer be printing and distributing paper catalogs. All of our current information can be found online at http://wiscareers.wisc.edu/G_Catalog/catalog.asp. Have you gone green?

Exciting Changes Coming for Fall!

Our New Look: We are Getting a Facelift!

Watch out to those of you who have gotten used to the old WISCareers Professional Tools look, for we are planning to unveil our new Professional Tools facelift! We have worked diligently with redesigning our Professional Tools appearance and have designed our look with the new technical generation in mind. We are excited about our new vision, and we look forward to hearing how much you like it as well!

Exciting Changes Coming for Fall!

Our New Features: Watch for Them!

We are in the process of adding new tools and features. Be on the look out for a new assessment, known as the Personal Globe Inventory (PGI). The PGI is an inventory that assesses interests and self-estimates of ability in a wide variety of areas and evolved from Terence J. G. Tracey’s research on the measurement of vocational interests. It provides a wealth of information that can be used in career and educational planning. The PGI Interest inventory consists of 115 items that helps students and job seekers explore a range of activities and interests. Once they complete the questionnaire, their answers are then organized according to RIASEC scores that reflect differential preferences for careers described as Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional.
We are also happy to announce our two newest activities which will be available this fall. We will be adding a new interactive resume and interviewing feature. These features include exciting videos on building resumes and performing interviews, as well as include engaging activities designed to promote interaction with the student. Students will be able to test their interview and resume knowledge with our fun quizzes and activities. Our goal is to engage the student and get them excited about the job-seeking process.

Wisconsin Careers is now Global

Some of you may have heard about our initiative with the Singapore Ministry of Education. A few short years ago, MOE (Ministry of Education) contracted WISCareers to help design and create a new online career development site for all pre-college students in the country (similar to our K12 system). Officially launched on 23 February 2009, ecareers.sg is this project, jointly developed by the Ministry of Education and the Center on Education and Work. The features on eCareers are similar to those on WiSCareers, and this project is what has allowed us to freshen our new look and features. You may view press releases here:


Fun facts about Singapore:

- Located at the Southern tip of the Malay peninsula in Southern Asia, it is an island about 273 miles squared, roughly 40 miles larger than Chicago.
- It has the 2nd highest populations’ density in the world, and is the 5th wealthiest country in the world in terms of GDP per capita.
- The main three races are Chinese, Malay and Indian; however, the majority of the citizens are of Chinese decent.
- The government is encourages foreigners to immigrate.
- The official national language is Malay, however, that is only for historical purposes. Singapore Standard English is the language of administration and business, and implemented as a first language early in the education system. The English used is primarily based on British English, with some American English influences.
- It is a very “Plugged-in” society. 70% of Singapore’s residents are internet users. The ratio of cell phones in Singapore is 1:1. One of the most popular pastimes is blogging.
- Most Wisconsin Careers staff members have visited Singapore at least once, and have their own exciting tales to tell about their visit.

Wisconsin Careers Collaboration with CESAs

One of our outreach specialists, Chris East, has been diligently working on collaborating with the twelve Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs) in order to bring you better training coverage. The goal is to move all of the WISCareers regional trainings to the twelve CESA locations as well as add on field trainers. This way, you are able to head to your local CESA to receive our free training. Once we establish trainers in your region, beginner and advanced sessions will be scheduled during the school year. You will be able to register through WISCareers. We are excited to bring expert trainers to your area soon!