

## **Unit 4 – Overview: Putting Together the Pieces!**

### **Overview**

The purpose of this unit is to connect students with opportunities to continue exploring careers. There are four experiences planned for the students in this unit:

- 1) Introduction to other career exploration opportunities in the school and community
- 2) Completion of a career exploration oriented team project
- 3) Construction of an individual career exploration portfolio
- 4) Completion of an End-of-Course Exam

The materials provided for this unit are different from the other three. Our experience tells us that career portfolios and additional opportunities to explore careers vary greatly from district to district. All Nebraska schools have access to Nebraska Career Connections, an online career exploration and portfolio system. Some districts have subscriptions to other, similar programs. Plan to use either Nebraska Career Connections' resources or one of the others and enhance them with the material we provide. Additionally, the implementation of this course may or may not be conducive to carrying out the team project in a session-by-session format. Finally, the resources and opportunities you offer students to continue exploring and planning for careers are unique to your local setting. For these reasons, we chose to provide session guides rather than detailed session plans for this particular unit. Like the other units, we still provide all the materials you will need to be successful!

If time allows, we strongly suggest completing all four experiences with students. If not, at a bare minimum, plan to complete the career exploration portfolio and the introduction to other career exploration resources and opportunities in the district.

### **Outcomes**

At the end of the unit, students will have:

- An awareness of other elements of the career exploration system within the local school and community.
- Experience completing a team project that emphasizes career exploration and Nebraska Career Readiness Standards and Skills development.
- Completed career exploration portfolio.

Throughout the experiences in Unit 4, students will actively reflect upon the following Essential Questions and Key Concepts:

- Essential Question 1: What resources do I have to support my career development?
  - Key Concept 1: Now, and in the future, I have a number of resources available to help me plan for and achieve my career goals.
  - Key Concept 2: Opportunities to explore careers are everywhere! Activities and experiences you participate in during high school can be valuable career development experiences.

- Essential Question 2: How do I demonstrate career readiness skills?
  - Key Concept 1: Gaining experience conducting work in a team environment is important to any future career.
  - Key Concept 2: I can communicate the experiences I gain through team projects with others to show that I am ready for a future career.
  - Key Concept 3: A portfolio is a tool to show others the quality of work I am able to do. A portfolio is a living document that can grow and change with me as I gain more experience.
  - Key Concept 4: It is important to show others that I am ready for continuous improvement. Developing and following through on plans for personal growth is one way I can show others I am ready to take on more responsibility at school and in my career.

### **Session Guides**

#### **1-5 Career Exploration Opportunities Guide**

### **Key Events**

- Introduce students to the career exploration opportunities and resources in your district.
  - Engage students in reflecting on Essential Question 1: What resources do I have to support my career development?
  - Students revise their Career Readiness Plan to include other community and school resources for career exploration.
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- 6 - 15 Team Project Guide**
    - Use the Team Project Guide to complete the career exploration oriented experience with students.
    - Engage students in reflecting on Essential Question 2: How do I demonstrate career readiness skills?
    - Students create a team project, a journal and presentation as artifacts.
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- 16 - 22 Individual Project Guide**
    - Use the Individual Project Guide to complete the career portfolio experience with students.
    - Engage students in reflecting on Essential Question 2: How do I demonstrate career readiness skills?
    - Students create an individual career exploration portfolio as an artifact.
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- 23 End-of-Course Exam**
    - Complete the End-of-Course Exam.