**Suggested Learning Activities**

**Career Exploration through Career Clusters**

**Objective**
Explore the concept of career clusters.

**Procedure**
Begin with a discussion, asking how many students know what occupations they want to pursue as adults. Ask a few students to share their goals with the class and reasons they think they may or may not be able to pursue these occupations.

Explain that a career cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities or characteristics. For instance, what do a teacher, a librarian, and a coach have in common? What about a park ranger, a forester, and a game warden?

Use the resources listed in this activity to help students identify their interests, skills, and traits.

*Career Clusters*
http://www.careerclusters.org

*O*Net Online
http://online.onetcenter.org/

*Occupational Outlook Handbook*
http://www.bls.gov/OCO/

**Notes/Resources**
They will find that there are 16 career clusters. Have them look up an occupation in which they may be interested and print the cluster of related occupations.

- Have students list the education and training needed in the cluster they chose.
- Explain to them that they may have an interest in a pathway (i.e. a broad subdivision of a career cluster leading to a number of related occupations), for example the movie industry.
- Have students list occupations/careers that fall under the spectrum of a chosen pathway.
- Have students use the resources listed in this activity to identify the interests, skills, and traits associated with these occupations/careers.
- Ask students to think about where they might fit in this pathway.
- Finally, have them match their interests, skills, and traits with a narrowed selection of possible occupations/careers.
- Have them choose one occupation/career to explore.

**Suggested Assessment**
Research report on a career cluster and selection of one occupation in that cluster