

## Why career education is critical to Nebraska's future.

Every day, 10,000 American workers turn 65. And that's going to be the case for the next 19 years. <sup>(2)</sup>

Experts project 47 million job openings in the decade ending 2018. About one-third will require an associate degree or certificate, and nearly all will require the mastery of real-world skills. <sup>(3)</sup>

A nationwide study of 800 manufacturers of all sizes revealed that 80% of respondents are suffering from a shortage of qualified workers overall, 90% have a moderate-to-severe shortfall of qualified skilled production employees—and 65% report a significant shortage of engineers and scientists. <sup>(4)</sup>

C4C is an important component in ensuring that Nebraska employers have a skilled, sustainable workforce that will keep our state globally competitive throughout the 21st Century.

C4C—and Nebraska Career Education—prepares Nebraska students for high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers that are available in Nebraska today—and will be in demand when they complete their postsecondary education.

This preparation starts in middle school with counselors and academic/career technical education teachers coordinating curriculum to help every student reach their goals.

## Learn how your school can get started with middle school college and career readiness.

Discover more about how the Nebraska Career Education Model, C4C-Curriculum for Careers and Nebraska Career Connections can become an integral component of career exploration in your district's school counseling program:

### Nebraska School Counselor Association

[www.neschoolcounselor.org](http://www.neschoolcounselor.org)



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## Footnotes

1. Nebraska School Counseling State Evaluation conducted by the Center for School Counseling Outcome Research, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Summer 2010
2. Passel, Jeffrey S. and Cohn, D'Vera, Pew Research Center, *U.S. Population Projections: 2005-2050*, Washington, DC, 2008
3. Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce via Harvard's *Pathways to Prosperity* report, p. 29, <http://cew.georgetown.edu>
4. *2005 Skills Gap Report: A Survey of the American Manufacturing Workforce*, National Association of Manufacturers, the Manufacturing Institute and Deloitte Consulting, LLP
5. *Examining Public Perceptions of Career and Technical Education in Nebraska*, University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, July 2010

# School Counseling

Nebraska's middle school initiative  
for college and career readiness

# The dramatic impact of counseling on student achievement.

A 2010 evaluation of counseling in Nebraska schools concluded that school counseling programs in Nebraska high schools have a significant impact on student success and achievement. (1)

When schools follow the Nebraska Model of School Counseling, including lower counselor-to-student ratios, they see significant contributions to:

- Higher graduation rates
- Higher attendance rates
- Technical career skill attainment
- Career Program of Study completion rate
- Attainment of Adequate Yearly Progress goals

The study recommended that all students have Personal Learning Plans in order for them to improve college and career readiness.

That learning plan begins with guidance lessons and counseling to help students make the connection between their education and their future career. And that initiative needs to begin in middle school so students can begin defining their educational pathway.

That's what the **Nebraska Career Education Model, C4C: Curriculum for Careers** and **Nebraska Career Connections** are all about. Nebraska school counselors use these resources in a comprehensive school counseling program to prepare students for college and career readiness. The results indicate higher student achievement.

# Nebraskans place a high value on career education.

A recent study (5) clearly shows that Nebraskans want their children to have more information about careers:

## Career Awareness and Exploration

- 77.7% of Nebraskans believe that students should begin to learn about potential careers in middle school or earlier, and that activities such as job shadowing and internships should be made available in high school.

## Attitudes about Career Information

- 89.7% of parents are interested in learning about career options for their children.
- 42.3% of Nebraskans who have children in K-12 are interested in learning about career options available to children, but large proportions of parents do not feel that Nebraska schools are currently doing a good job of informing parents about careers and their related academic requirements.

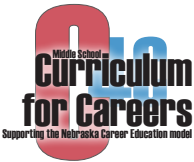
## The Nebraska Economy and CTE (Career Technical Education)

- 59.4% of Nebraskans say that economic activity in their area is directly tied to the education afforded students.
- 91.3% of Nebraskans believe that teaching students entrepreneurial skills is important for the future of the state's economy.

# Data shows these Nebraska resources are effective for career exploration and academic planning.



The **Nebraska Career Education Model** is an innovative, easy-to-understand structure that organizes Nebraska careers into six major career fields. The model provides a common vision and language for business, industry, education, government agencies and private partners as they work together to position Nebraska for economic success. At the center of the model are the college and career skills that every person needs in order to be successful.



While **C4C-Curriculum for Careers** is focused on middle school students, it draws upon valuable resources that apply to students throughout their education:

## Through the C4C curriculum, middle schools students will:

- Understand how college and career readiness skills apply to each cluster
- Have opportunities to apply skills and knowledge through career exploration activities
- Examine entrance requirements for a wide variety of post-secondary options
- Learn how to locate and use current career information that connects curriculum to relevant careers
- Experience extended learning opportunities that bring relevance and real-world context to the curriculum
- Develop Personal Learning Plans—flexible and relevant plans of study for high school graduation and for seamless transition to post-secondary options



**NebraskaCareerConnections.org** is a robust, free online resource for career awareness and career education. Through NebraskaCareerConnections.org, middle school students begin the career exploration process, assess their interests and skills. NebraskaCareerConnections.org is useful throughout a student's education. Annual assessments gauge their continued interest in a career field and ensure that their educational pathway is intact.