

# CHOOSING YOUR PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Your future is at your doorstep, and the world is yours to take! What an exciting, and intimidating, time this can be in your life. However, with some planning and hard work, your educational and career dreams can become reality. A wise person once said, "You plan to fail if you fail to plan." We know that's not your plan so here are some road signs as you travel the road to success.

**SET REALISTIC GOALS FOR YOURSELF.** When you do, take into consideration your career goals, class time, work and study schedules, and extracurricular activities that are important to you. You may not complete your education in two or four years because you have to work or other circumstances arise, but persistence is the key. Make sure that your goals are realistic and achievable, and the degree or certificate is yours!



### DO YOU NEED A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE OR MORE TO GET YOUR DREAM JOB,

but you think starting at a four-year university may be a little too much to handle at this point in your life?

Consider whether getting a two-year degree first would benefit you.

Once you have completed your academic degree or certificate program and celebrated your accomplishment, use that experience to springboard into a better job that creates more income and exercise your options for the best four-year university that supports your chosen occupation. Using your academic success as leverage allows you to stretch the limits of your own abilities, and gain the knowledge and training you need to be a productive member of the workforce in a timeframe that's realistic for you.

**"ALWAYS DREAM AND SHOOT HIGHER THAN YOU KNOW YOU CAN DO."**

—WILLIAM FAULKNER



**MERGE YOUR JOB AND YOUR EDUCATION.** Take the opportunity to find a job that supports your future career if it is available in your community. These types of jobs will keep you motivated, and make your education more relevant. If you don't know the job that is right for you, take an interest survey. They are readily available on-line, local colleges and universities make them available for free or a small fee, or check out the resources in the back of this book. These surveys help you discover how your unique interests and talents pay off in a career. Also try job shadowing and attending career expos. All of these interactive experiences will help you discover and put your best talents to work.

**GET TO WORK...VOLUNTEERING!** Volunteering not only helps those in your community, it helps you find and grow skills you didn't know you had. Do you think you want to be a manager? Maybe being a committee chairman is the first step. While you are honing your leadership skills, you will also be enhancing your resume. Employers love to hire volunteers because it shows initiative, and that you are willing to go "above and beyond the call of duty." You can contact your local Chamber of Commerce, talk to your parents or friends, or get in contact with the student services office on any college campus for ways to get involved. So don't just sit there...get to work helping others and helping yourself!



**YOUR ROADMAP TO SUCCESS IS AS INDIVIDUAL AS YOU ARE,** and the opportunities are as endless as your potential! We can't promise that there won't be some bumps along the way, but it is our hope that you finish strong and find the career that's right for you. The information in this book will be a great companion during that journey. Best wishes as you create your own pathway to success!!