

# Sessions Guide 1-5 — Career Exploration Opportunities Guide:

## Navigating the Course - *Where are we in the course?*

**OVERVIEW:** The purpose of the sessions outlined in this guide is to introduce students to the additional career exploration opportunities and resources available in the district. Each school district and community has a cadre of activities, classes, and opportunities designed to help students explore the world of careers. Government-sponsored programs, career education courses, student organizations, career exploration systems, school-to-work options, career academies, magnet schools, etc. make up a short list of the opportunities you may have available in your area. Use this session to highlight those opportunities and help students identify additional resources to include in their Career Readiness Plan that will continue their career exploration efforts.

### Unit Concepts & Essential Questions Addressed in This Session

What resources do I have to support my career development?

- Now, and in the future, I have a number of resources available to help me plan for and achieve my career goals.
- Opportunities to explore careers are everywhere! Activities and experiences you participate in during high school can be valuable career development experiences.

## Session Vitals – *What must I know to facilitate this series of sessions?*



### Sessions 1-5 Snapshot

1. Introduce the Purpose of the Opportunity Showcase	1 session
2. Conduct the Opportunity Showcase	2 sessions
3. Updating the Career Readiness Plan and Evaluation	2 sessions
<b>Estimated Number of 50-Minute Sessions</b>	<b>5 sessions</b>

### Materials Used

- ✓ Unit 4: Sessions 1-5 PowerPoint Slides
- ✓ Unit 4 Activity Sheets, Pages 1-5 (One Per Student)

## Core Instruction – *How do I facilitate the opportunity showcase?*



### Preparing for the Sessions

- ✓ Conduct an audit of the opportunities and resources available in the school district, community and state to assist students in continuing their career exploration efforts.
- ✓ Example opportunities and resources include:
  - Work-Based Learning Programs
  - School-to-Work or Work Experience Opportunities
  - Community-Based Programs (e.g., 4-H, Boy/Girl Scouts, Junior Achievement, etc.)
  - Dual or Concurrent Credit Courses
  - Articulated Credit Programs with Post-Secondary Institutions
  - Electronic Career Information Systems
  - Electronic Career Portfolio Systems (e.g., Kuder®, Bridges®, etc.)
  - Career and Technical Education Courses
  - Career and Technical Student Organizations (e.g., DECA, FCCLA, HOSA, etc.)
  - Career Education Course Rotation During Middle School
  - Career One Stop Centers
  - Job Corp
  - Vocational Rehabilitation Service Centers
  - Career and School Counseling Services and Resources
- ✓ Create a list of opportunities and resources to highlight during the opportunity showcase.
- ✓ If appropriate, arrange guest speakers to discuss in class the various opportunities and resources to they can offer students.
- ✓ If possible, it is valuable to conduct this type of showcase when parents or guardians are available to attend. An outreach option could include an opportunity fair at a parents' night or parent-teacher conferences.



## Session-by-Session Plans

### Session 1: Introduce the Purpose of the Opportunity Showcase

- ✓ Introduce the Essential Questions and Key Concepts addressed in the sessions about other opportunities by showing PowerPoint Slides #2-3.
- ✓ Provide students with a copy of Activity Sheet 1-1 or the “Opportunities Passport.” Discuss the use of this document during the opportunity showcase. As students learn about an opportunity or resource available in the district or community, they should keep track of the information shared. Additionally, they should identify at least three resources discussed to include in their Career Readiness Plan (from the Unit 3 Milestone Project).
- ✓ Let students know that their goal is to identify at least three new opportunities or resources to include in a revised version of their Career Readiness Plan (from the Unit 3 Milestone Project). Pass out the Opportunities and Resources Rubric to share the expectations for this particular project.

### Sessions 2-3: Conduct the Opportunity Showcase

- ✓ Host the showcase. Invite key speakers if appropriate. Provide samples of the materials available to students.
- ✓ Monitor to make certain all students are attentive. Consider having a student summarize each opportunity or resource aloud before moving on to the next.
- ✓ Begin session 3 by having students work in pairs to review the opportunities and resources discussed during the previous session.
- ✓ If desired, you may want to collect students’ completed Activity Sheet 1-1 or the “Opportunities Passports” to assess student participation during the event.
- ✓ To help students identify additional opportunities to prepare for a career, pass out the “Guide to Nebraska Career Readiness Standards.” This short guide has a number of ideas and tips for building career readiness skills. Explain to students that this sheet may provide ideas for additional tasks to include in the updated version of their Career Readiness Plan.

### Sessions 4–5: Updating the Career-Readiness Plan and Evaluation

- ✓ Students update their Career-Readiness Plan. They should revise the plan to include at least three new opportunities discussed during the opportunity showcase.
- ✓ To evaluate the revised Career-Readiness Plan, review the plan with each student individually (if time allows). Ask them to explain what they updated about the plan and why. If time for individual conversations is not available, have students write their explanation of what they update about the plan and why. Evaluate their work using the criteria outlined on the Opportunities and Resources Rubric.