When I was in high school, I didn't think I was capable of going to college. I knew that higher education was a gateway to better options and more opportunity for my future. But my parents didn't go to college, and, besides, I couldn't afford the tuition. I was wrong! Fortunately, I had taken classes in high school, which prepared me for college courses. That, and my own determination, helped me to realize a college degree.

You are preparing by taking challenging math and science classes. You have shown determination by attending UBMS last summer. **You will succeed!**

Karen

**High School Grads...Doing Better in Math and Science**

A new study released by ACT, the Iowa City non-profit that administers tests for college-bound high schoolers, shows that 60% of 2012 high school grads are at risk of not succeeding in college or in a career.

Along with the bad news, though, was a silver lining: The percent of test-takers who scored high enough for ACT’s college readiness benchmarks in math and science each rose for the third straight year. Still, fewer than half of students met those benchmarks. Forty-six percent achieved them in math and 31% earned them in science. Each of those figures is 3 percentage points better than in 2008.

The ACT study also points to a gap between the kinds of careers students say they want to pursue and the kinds of jobs that will likely be open to them. ACT looked at the five fastest growing fields according to Labor Department data—education, computer/information specialties, community services, management and marketing/sales—and found that the number of students interested in pursuing those fields was less than the projected demand for workers. For instance, ACT calculates that 11% of jobs will be available in computer and information specialties, but only 2% of high schoolers say they want to pursue that field.

-Forbes - Susan Adams - 8/22/12

**Exploring Careers Step-by-Step**

**Which Jobs Are Right for You?**

Deciding what career you want to pursue is exciting. But because there are so many career paths, it can be hard to choose. You might read about a court case in the news and want to be a trial lawyer. Then, after you watch a wildlife documentary, becoming a marine biologist might seem like a good idea.

How do you decide which to choose, or even where to start? Here’s an activity that can help you explore the possibilities. You’ll gain more than a better understanding of various jobs; you’ll also learn something about yourself.

**Step 1: Think about what interests you.**

Divide a page into four columns. Label the first two columns “Interests” and “Job Ideas”. In the first column, list your interests, such as children or sports. Then in the second column, list jobs that have something to do with each interest.

Need help? Think about people you've read about or met who have interesting jobs, or use the career quizzes that are available in your counselor's office or online.

(continued on page 4)
October- College Planning Tips

**Sophomores:**

*Talk to your school counselor about taking the PLAN test or the PSAT/NMSQT test. These tests prepare you for the ACT or SAT. Also, go over your future plans with your counselor to make sure you are on track for graduation.

*Explore colleges and careers through online resources such as www.bls.gov/k12 or www.ihaveaplan.iowa.gov. Also, make a list of what you like to do, what you are good at, and what you value. The first step in career planning is self-discovery.

**Seniors:**

*Register to take the ACT if you haven’t already taken it. You may also retake the test if you are unhappy with your previous score.

*Ask your teachers, high school counselor and/or employers to write letters of recommendation for your admission and scholarship applications.

*Are you narrowing down your college choices? Have you completed an admission application? Colleges have admission deadlines and application requirements. Be sure to stay on top of these tasks.

**Juniors:**

*Check with your high school counselor to register for the PSAT. These scores are used to determine National Merit Scholars.

*Begin gathering information about colleges that interest you and start a list of those you would like to visit.

*Keep your grades up. Colleges look at your overall GPA through all four years of high school.

*Beware of scholarship search and financial aid service organizations that charge a fee for service. Much of the information you may be seeking is available at no cost.

**Parents:**

*Play an active role. Keep the line of communication open throughout your student’s high school years. Talk to their teachers and counselor about their progress and any concerns that you have. Being involved can help them succeed.

*Work with your student to set clear goals before you visit colleges. Work together to create a list of targeted questions for your student to ask during the tour. Let your student set up the visit and take the lead in asking questions. College admission staff agrees that one of the biggest mistakes you can make as a parent is to take over the process.

**College: 6 Things to Do Your Freshman Year**

1. Join a club during your first week.
   - It provides a ready-made social group.
2. Befriend your adviser
   - Your adviser is full of practical advice for getting the most out of your college experience.
3. Craft a secret exam ritual
   - The activities of this ritual will cue your mind that it’s time to get serious.
4. Relax already
   - If you want to get the most out of your college experience, you cannot neglect either work or play.
5. Attend 8 talks or events the first month
   - This rapid immersion will cement a craving for extracurricular mental stimulation
6. Finish 1 long-term project absurdly early
   - Once you realize that it’s not all that horrible, it will be easier to reject the procrastination urge.

*From: Iowa College Access Network*
Career: Geoscientists

Rarely do we consider the earth as something active--we usually think of it as a solid piece of rock. But in fact, it's a dynamic system with a lot going on. That's easy to see when there's an earthquake or a volcanic eruption. Geoscientists study our constantly changing planet. They pay special attention to the earth's physics and the chemical relationship between the core, crust, and atmosphere.

Geoscientists specialize in specific areas. Oceanographers, for instance, study the geology, biology, and chemistry of the oceans. Hydrologists study the way water circulates both on the earth's surface and underground. Seismologists study earthquakes and earthquake faults. Geoscientists study the earth's structure and composition. They study its history and evolution, rocks, internal structure and core, oceans, and resources, like gas and oil.

Did you know?

Most geoscientists work for a university, engineering firm, a gas or an oil company, or the government. Some geoscientists and paleontologists study the fossils found within rocks.

Are you ready to.....?

* work with complicated equipment
* come up with theories about the earth
* write grant proposals to get funding for research
* spend time in the office, but also in the field or lab
* hammer at rock
* hike with a heavy backpack

It helps to be...

Someone who sees there's more to a rock than just a rock and enjoys history, dinosaurs, environmental issues, and the outdoors.

Did You Know...?

Outlook

Employment of geoscientists is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations through 2018. If you earn a master's degree in geosciences, you should find plenty of job openings. With only a bachelor's degree, however, you'll find few opportunities. Ph.D. holders can expect competition for jobs in research and college teaching.

Those who speak a second language, in addition to English, and are willing to work abroad, will find the most jobs. Keep in mind that employment for some geoscientists follows the ups and downs of oil and gas prices.

Compensation

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the average yearly salary of geoscientists, except hydrologists and geographers, was $92,710 in 2009. Hydrologists earned $76,760.

Make High School Count

Preparation is the key to any career. To become a geoscientist, you should:

* take a range of challenging science classes, including earth science, environmental science, chemistry, physics, and biology as well as math.
* sign up for computer courses. You'll be using them a lot to analyze data and do other work.
* join an outdoors or environmental club and plan activities like fossil hunting.
* compete in a science fair.

-2012 The College Board
Mentor Information - Student Responsibilities

The student is in a unique position to benefit from the mentor-protégé relationship. As a protégé, the student has certain responsibilities also. The student will:

• make time available on a regular basis to ensure that he/she can meet with the mentor twice each month (at least 10-12 times throughout the academic year) outside of class.
• establish and maintain a positive, caring, respectful relationship with mentor.

• be open and honest with the mentor.
• work with the mentor to develop a “plan” to provide for the mentor-protégé interaction.
• keep the mentor informed about progress with the project and in school courses.
• work, with guidance of the mentor, to become self-directing and independent.

Exploring Careers Step-by-Step (continued from pg. 1)

Step 2: Consider how to get there.

Label the third column "Requirements". No, you don't have to plan your whole life right now, but it's good to know what skills, classes, and degrees different jobs require.

You might discover that you don't like any of the courses needed to complete a college major that would prepare you for one of the jobs on your list. To get information about education requirements for different jobs, use Major & Career Profiles at: (bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers)

Step 3: Try it out.

Label the last column "Things I Can Do Now" and list ways of getting a feel for what one of the jobs on your list is really like. For example, you could volunteer where you're likely to meet someone who has one of the jobs you're interested in.

-from: bigfuture.collegeboard.org

About Our Organization…

Who are we?

A life-enhancing college-prep program that provides opportunities for capable and motivated high school students to gain the academic and life skills necessary to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

* 100% funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education
* Serving high school students from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri since 1992