

# How Can I Help My Teen with Career Decisions?

**R**ight now, your teen is getting a lot of messages at school and in the media about what to do after high school – go to a two-year college, attend a university, find a job in this field, work for that company, and many other messages. Your support helps your teen make sense of all this information and to make choices that best fit your teen's goals and personality.

It's time for your teen to look at all education and career options. Ignoring career exploration today can limit future options. You can help your teen understand how high school education impacts college and other training options.

When you play a role in your teen's career exploration, you are helping to increase your teen's chances of future job satisfaction and financial independence.

## Changing Economy, Changing Expectations

Minnesota's job market is not the same as it was 10 or 20 years ago. The global economy has played a big role in altering employers' expectations for employees. These expectations change the way today's job seekers prepare for their careers.

Here are some economic realities that your teen will face in today's economy. These may be very different realities than when you graduated high school:

## More Education & Training Needed

Most jobs require some type of additional training or education after high school. Jobs that only require a high school diploma often don't lead to advanced positions and don't pay well.

## Emphasis on Skills

During layoffs, employers do not always keep employees who have worked the longest. Employers value specialized skills and abilities more than longevity.

## Flexibility is Key

In order to move up in most careers, people must be flexible and willing to learn changing technology and new business practices.

## Individual Career Management

It's common for people to change companies or switch careers several times in a lifetime. Individuals must keep track of their own career and retirement plans.

