



LOW HANGING FRUIT

College and Career Preparation

By Gina Persichini

By 2018 over 60% of jobs in Idaho will require advanced training and education (www.dontfailidaho.org). This may not be news to you if you have seen the commercials on TV, attended any of the many conferences or workshops on the subject, or read the countless articles addressing college and career readiness. For many of us, we just want to know: What can I do here and now to prepare students?

Talk to students. You already know that, as an educator, you play an important and influential role in the lives of your students. Personal confession: I would not have gone to college were it not for my Algebra teacher asking me which colleges I was interested in. College? Me? Until that point, I'd not considered it a possibility. My grades weren't good, and I didn't have a career plan. He introduced me to the possibility with a simple question and follow-up conversation. I owe my current great career to him.

Explore Options. Using tools like the Career Information System (made available through the Department of Labor) and LearningExpress Library, you can help students explore and prepare for a variety of careers. Whether they opt for a job in healthcare, engineering, plumbing, commercial truck driving, or the military; these tools provide information about scope of work, employment forecasts, salary expectations, and the preparation for certifications or education needed to fulfill one's goals. Take a look at the Digital Tools to learn more about these resources.

"I would not have gone to college were it not for my Algebra teacher"

Prepare for college entrance and placement. Thanks to the Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI) program, Idaho students can prepare for the SAT and ACT at no cost to them. The College Preparation Center in LearningExpress provides ebooks, tutorials, and practice tests for entrance exams. The College Center includes practice for college placement exams like the ACCUPLACER™, ASSET™, and COMPASS™ exams. For many students, success is achieved when the stress of test-taking is eased. LearningExpress helps by providing different practice modes to simulate the testing experience or to learn as you go depending on one's needs.

While we all work together to prepare students for our future workforce needs, these are just a few steps available through your library to take action now.

LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



Next Steps Idaho

Suggestions for each year, from 8th to 12th grades, as a student prepares for college.

<http://nextsteps.idaho.gov>

Idaho State Department of Education College Entrance Exam

With information about college placement initiatives.

<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/assessment/college/>

Khan Academy

Tutorials in all subject areas including test preparation.

<http://khanacademy.com/>

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



Using My Center in LearningExpress

Each user of LearningExpress Library has their own unique login. After taking a practice test, users can view their results immediately or later on in the "My Center" feature of the database. The results in "My Center" will identify areas for further study based on correct or incorrect answers on the practice tests. This will also include links to further study using resources available in other parts of the LearningExpress Library system.

DIGITAL TOOLS



The following are available at:

www.lili.org/collegecareer

Idaho Career Information System

Find information about career options with salary outlook, skills needed, and employment prospects in Idaho and nationwide.

LearningExpress Library

Tutorials, ebooks, and practice tests for college preparation, placement, and career licensing & certification prep.



