



## CAREER CONNECTIONS

THE ASVAB CEP COUNSELOR NEWSLETTER



### IN THE NEWS

## THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALTERNATIVE

The long-held stigma attached to attending community college is becoming a thing of the past.

As postsecondary education becomes harder and harder to afford, community colleges have grown in popularity. Community college is an affordable alternative to four-year colleges that can help students prepare for the workforce or future study. "Overall, the average cost of public community colleges is less than half the cost of public four-year colleges and about one-tenth the cost of private four-year colleges."<sup>1</sup>

Community colleges offer a wide variety of programs that train students to work in specialized fields, playing an essential role in responding to the workforce needs of their community as well as the nation.<sup>2</sup> "They prepare over half of the nation's registered nurses and the majority of other health-care workers, over 80% of first responders with postsecondary credentials (paramedics, EMTs, firefighters, and police officers), and a growing percentage of the nation's technological workforce (National Commission on Community Colleges, 2008).<sup>3</sup>

Students can use their two years at community college to improve their GPA if their ultimate goal is to get in to a four year school. "Community colleges have an open-door admissions policy – all students are accepted regardless of past academic performance.

Some community colleges even offer guaranteed admissions to a variety of four-year universities. **Tell your students:** Make sure to read the admission agreements carefully. These agreements guarantee admission to a college or university but most do not guarantee admission to a specific program.<sup>4</sup>



### DID YOU KNOW?

**10 college majors with lowest unemployment rate:<sup>5</sup>**

*"There are at least six fields of study whose graduates are virtually 100 percent employed right now."*

1. **Actuarial Science**
2. **Astronomy and Astrophysics**
3. **Educational Administration and Supervision**
4. **Geological and Geophysical Engineering**
5. **Pharmacology**
6. **School Student Counseling**
7. **Agricultural Economics**
8. **Medical Technologies Technicians**
9. **Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology**
10. **Environmental Engineering, Nursing, and Nuclear Industrial Radiology and Biological Technologies**

<sup>1</sup> Community College: A Viable Option. [http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref\\_Community\\_College/?page=2](http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_Community_College/?page=2)

<sup>2</sup> Community College: A Viable Option. [http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref\\_Community\\_College/?page=2](http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_Community_College/?page=2)

<sup>3</sup> Democracy's Colleges: The Evolution of the Community College in America. <http://www2.ed.gov/PDFDocs/college-completion/01-democracys-colleges.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> NOVA Guaranteed Admission. <http://www.nvcc.edu/about-nova/directories--offices/administrative-offices/academic/guaranteed-adm/index.html>

<sup>5</sup> 10 college majors with the lowest unemployment rate <http://news.yahoo.com/blogs/lookout/10-college-majors-lowest-unemployment-rates-163049193.html>

## COUNSELING FOR PLAN B<sup>6</sup>

Counseling is about guiding students toward success, but it's also about building a game plan that includes managing disappointment. Highlighting a plan's potential risks can be negative. But establishing a concrete plan B is critical to a positive end result.<sup>6</sup>

First, identify weak spots in the plan. Ask "what if this doesn't work?" Or "how long would you be willing to stick with this plan before you'd feel you had to abandon it?" Work through these questions until the student is comfortable with the answers.<sup>6</sup>

Also, encourage students to manage expectations in terms of timelines, financial obligations and capabilities. Understanding the level of commitment a particular plan requires will help them realize its feasibility.



### DID YOU KNOW?

#### THE MILITARY AS AN OPTION

College after high school isn't in the cards for all students. When you have a student looking for a plan b, considering a military career is a reasonable option.

#### Perks:

All Servicemembers receive base pay. Expenses - from housing and food to health care and life insurance - are paid. Several military programs help pay for college.

#### Make an informed decision:

Take the ASVAB and discover which military jobs are available. Contact a recruiter to determine which branch is the best fit. Decide if the military is the right career path for you.

### SHARE A PROFILE

Plan B might not be the obvious choice. When working with a student in this position, providing specific tools or ideas about how they can use "Plan B" as a stepping stone on the way back to their ultimate career or life goal can help them embrace other options.<sup>6</sup> Share these stories with your students considering an alternative to their first choice.

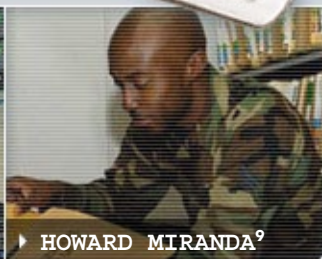
To read these, and other stories of success, go to [www.careersinthemilitary.com](http://www.careersinthemilitary.com).



▶ JEFFERY LEIB<sup>7</sup>



▶ MI SOU HOOD<sup>8</sup>



▶ HOWARD MIRANDA<sup>9</sup>

### Help students make informed career decisions.

For more information, visit [www.asvabprogram.com](http://www.asvabprogram.com) or call 1-800-323-0513.



The ASVAB CEP:

**USEFUL,  
USER-FRIENDLY,  
AND FREE!**

Budgets are tight in all school districts. The ASVAB CEP remains free to all participating schools and gives students the all-important opportunity to fully explore career possibilities. Schedule the 2011-2012 ASVAB CEP in your school today! Call **1-800-323-0513**.

<sup>6</sup> Counseling Job Seekers Facing "Plan B" [http://associationdatabase.com/aws/ncda/pt/sd/news\\_article/53981/blank/blank/true](http://associationdatabase.com/aws/ncda/pt/sd/news_article/53981/blank/blank/true)

<sup>7</sup> Jeffery Leib [http://careersinthemilitary.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.profiledetail&profile\\_id=16](http://careersinthemilitary.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.profiledetail&profile_id=16)

<sup>8</sup> Mi Sou Hood [http://www.careersinthemilitary.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.profiledetail&profile\\_id=28](http://www.careersinthemilitary.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.profiledetail&profile_id=28)

<sup>9</sup> Howard Miranda [http://careersinthemilitary.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.profiledetail&profile\\_id=24](http://careersinthemilitary.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.profiledetail&profile_id=24)