**Activities to Promote Career and Vocational Awareness**

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Interest Inventories  
There are many to choose from and many can depend on the preference and ability of the student. One example for a great online resource is MyNextMove.org. Students can browse a career they may already be interested in or complete the interest inventory to generate different careers that may work for them. Awareness of skills, abilities, wants, and needs is very important when beginning to explore career and vocation.

Exploration  
Students can then research and explore using MyNextMove.org or using other resources. They can look into the career path they chose or some of the options they were given. Educators can assist students in understanding more of their needs and opinions about working. Some students want to earn more money, or some students may prefer to work at night. The more the student is exposed to options the more they see the options are available.

Getting Out There!  
Educators can connect with members of the community to explore volunteer and job shadowing opportunities in the area. Often companies and employers are happy to help in some capacity to further interest in the next generation of employees. Also in your community may be opportunities to attend or supplement in different vocational programs. Don’t be afraid to tour and explore options in your area!

References

National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability. “Learning How to Learn.” (2015). Retrieved on June 19, 2015 from http://www.ncwd-youth.info/information-brief/learning-how-to-learn

My Next Move. (2015.) Received on June 19, 2015 from mynextmove.org