

Professional Issues in School Guidance: PSYCH 6460
SYSTEMIC CHANGE ASSIGNMENT, Spring Semester 2011

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Purpose: Counselors have been given powerful tools to enact systemic change in their schools. Provided free of charge to all Utah residents, UtahFutures.org is "Utah's career information system for students, job seekers, employment service providers, educational institutions and more." In addition, the Universal Encouragement Program housed in UtahFutures collects data, for research purposes and is available to school counselors.

Established by GEAR UP, Utah State Office of Education, Utah Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA), Utah State Office of Rehabilitation and the Department of workforce Services, UtahFutures was created to provide individuals with "career planning tools, leading labor market information, job search success skills, educational and training options and direct links to Utah employers and employment opportunities." (Information found at <http://pioneer.utah.gov/research/databases/futures.html>)

Utah School Counselors use UtahFutures to promote systemic change in a variety of ways. It is a tool to make the educational and career choice process "system" better. The purpose of this activity is to help students understand the powerful resource available through UtahFutures.org.

Instructions: Complete the following. When complete, put answers in blackboard under assessment.

- (1) Go to www.utahfutures.org. At the landing page enter stevensonhs as the user name and 4utahfutures as the password. When you get to the next landing page select "My Portfolio" on the top right. On the next page select "Create 'My Portfolio'". Create your own account by entering your first and last name, email and creating a user name and password.
- (2) Return to the homepage. Complete the attached worksheet. Save worksheet information.
- (3) Return to the homepage. Begin to build your SEO Portfolio. Click on My Portfolio (top right). Go to My Education and Work History. Watch the tutorial for creating resumé. Create your own resumé by filling out the green highlighted areas. This needs to be a workable resumé. Save resumé.
- (4) Return to the homepage. Click on Resources. Look up one area under each category. Summarize your findings in a short paper (does *not* need to be APA style). The paper should begin with an introduction telling how you will use UtahFutures as a school counselor, the body of the paragraph will include what you found under resources and conclude with a paragraph on how UtahFutures is a systemic change tool (as discussed in class).
- (5) Combine summary, resumé, and worksheet into one document and submit on blackboard under systemic change assignment.

Grading: This assignment is worth 25 points. Grading will be based on completeness, critical thinking, and utility (is your resume complete enough that you could use it for applications?).

Click **Career Interest Surveys** from the dropdown menu on the homepage. Click **Career Cluster Inventory**. Read the instructions and click **Rate the activities**. Once you've answered all questions, click **Get Results**.

List your top 3 Career Clusters and scores:

- 1) _____ Score: _____
2) _____ Score: _____
3) _____ Score: _____

Click on the **Career Cluster** that you received the highest score in. Click **Occupations** under "Related Information" and select one of the jobs listed. Use the links on the left side of the page to find the following information:

The **career** I chose to research is: _____

List one **Common Occupational Task**

List one **Common Work Activity**

List two **Skills & Abilities**

- 1) _____
2) _____

Preparation: List the Education, Degree, and/or Training needed

List two **Helpful High School Courses**

- 1) _____
2) _____

List the yearly or hourly **Wages**

In Utah: _____ In US: _____

List the **Employment & Outlook**

In Utah: _____ In US: _____

Click **Programs of Study** under the “Related Information” section and click on a specific **Program**. Click **US Colleges and Universities** on the left side of the page then select a **State** and **School**. Answer the following:

School: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Website: _____

How many students attend?

Men: _____ Women: _____ Total: _____

How much does it cost to attend?

In-state: _____ Out-of-State Tuition: _____ Room/Board: _____

Admission Requirements

Required Exam (circle one or both): ACT or SAT. Entrance difficulty: _____

List two different sports programs offered:

1) _____ 2) _____

List two different student activities offered:

1) _____ 2) _____

Return to the **Home** page and click on **Education & Training**. Click on **Financial Aid**. Read through the links on the left side of the page and answer the following:

What is the **value of a college education**? (Click on calculator) _____

Name two **types of Financial Aid**.

1) _____ 2) _____

True or False: To obtain an **Academic-Merit Scholarship**, you have to have a perfect GPA?

What are **grants**? _____

What are the names of the two major **Federal Student Loan** programs?

1) _____ 2) _____

List two other **ways to pay** for a college education.

1) _____ 2) _____

What does the acronym **FAFSA** stand for? (See “Applying For Financial Aid”)
