

# ILLINOIS KIDS



## *TO COLLEGE*

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*EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING  
FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE*

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## *PROGRAM GUIDE*

*College/University Component*

# INTRODUCTION

*Kids to College* is a unique learning program sponsored by a group of public and private colleges and universities in Illinois. The program is funded as an investment in school progress by a generous grant from the Student Loan Marketing Association. The Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities serves as coordinator and fiscal agent.

*Kids to College* is designed to help sixth graders make the important connection between learning in school and college and career progress. The curriculum focuses on helping students develop essential skills in writing, organizing, and reporting on research, and using maps and timelines. As they use these skills to learn about college and careers, students will discover that college is a real and important choice they can make.

The program guide is designed to help colleges and public school teachers organize this collaboration.

*This guide was developed by the DePaul University Center for Urban Education. It includes materials from the Community Workplace Project and from the national Kids to College Program. Schools are encouraged to use these materials with credit to the Kids to College Program, funded by the Student Loan Marketing Association.*

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# ✓ Learning Activities and Guides

## Week 1: Orientation to College

- **Teacher** previews the program with students, prepares list of questions they have about college.
- **Campus liaison** and one or two college students visit the class. College student talks about life at college and answers questions. Sixth-graders learn college related vocabulary words as college student uses map to point out places.
- **Teacher** distributes college catalogs and other materials.
- **Students** take college information home and discuss with their parents their family's hopes for their education and careers.

### Week 1 Learning Resources

- A. Informational Letter to Parents
- B. College-Career Glossary
- C. College-Career Interview Guide
- D. Reading a College Map
- E. My College and Career Future: Part 1--Planning My Future

## Week 2: School-College-Career Connections

- **Students** write a letter to their parents asking them to join them on the trip.
- **Students** begin booklet, "My College and Career Future".
- **Students** identify career area they are interested in and begin that section of their booklet.
- **Students** read sections of the College Catalog and identify courses that relate to their career area.
- **Students** make a list of questions they have about the college and a list of places they want to see when they visit the college.
- If possible, **teacher** arranges for a high school senior who has been accepted by the college to speak to your class about how elementary school helped prepare for high school and how high school has enabled this student to get ready for college.

### Week 2 Learning Resources

- A. Letter-Writing Guide
- B. Reading a College Catalog
- C. My College and Career Future
  - Part 2: I'm on My Way
  - Part 3: My Career Area
- D. High School Interview Guide

### **Week 3: Exploring College**

- **Students** use a map to trace the route from school to the college.
- **Students and parents** make field trip to the college.  
*If possible, take cameras to document the visit.*
- **Campus Liaison and College Students** facilitate the visit. (See visit outline.)
- **Students** complete the college visit section of their booklets.
- **Students** make a display about the college.
- **Students** write and illustrate “me in 2010” when I am in college.
- Students use their display in a presentation to 4th and 5th graders based on what they have learned. (See Presentation Outline.)

#### **Week 3 Learning Resources**

- A. The route from school to college
- B. Learning from people and places--Outline for Visiting the College
- C. A Day in College
- D. Me Then, When I am in College.
- E. Presentation Outline

### **Week 4: Exploring Careers**

- **Students** work on the career section of their booklets.
- **Students** write and illustrate “me in 2020” when I have my career.
- **College student and Liaison** visit to discuss the students’ experiences with them.
- **Students** write to businesses and agencies to get information about these workplaces where they might be employed in the future.

#### **Week 4 Learning Resources**

- A. My Career Choice
- B. Me in the Future
- C. School-College-Career Connections: Outline for a Display

### **Expansion Resources**

How to Organize a Career and College Resource Center

**Parent Information/Involvement Letter**

**ILLINOIS KIDS TO COLLEGE**  
**Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities**  
**MAKING CONNECTIONS: SCHOOL-COLLEGE-CAREER**

Dear Parent:

Our sixth grade class is participating in an important program, ILLINOIS KIDS TO COLLEGE. During the next four weeks, your child will learn about college and careers. The program includes a field trip to

\_\_\_\_\_ College on \_\_\_\_\_.

I hope that you will be able to join us for that trip.

As part of the program, your child will bring materials home to help plan a college and career future. Please help your child think about these opportunities and make realistic and positive plans for that progress. Your child has a bright future, and we want to make sure that your child realizes that there is no limit on that future, especially if your child sets goals for college and career now.

Thank you for all your support.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

## COLLEGE-CAREER GLOSSARY

During the ILLINOIS KIDS TO COLLEGE Program, you will use important words. Make your own “WORD BANK” of these key words. For each word, write a sentence or give an example that helps make the meaning clear. You will get those examples as you work on the project.

<p><b>Higher Education</b> Education beyond high school.</p>	<p><b>elective</b> Courses you can choose.</p>
<p><b>bachelor’s degree</b> What you get when you graduate from college.</p>	<p><b>financial aid</b> Money that you can get to help pay for college costs.</p>
<p><b>campus</b> The land and buildings of a college.</p>	<p><b>college preparatory</b> Courses you take in high school that help you prepare for college.</p>
<p><b>dormitory</b> A building where students live on campus.</p>	<p><b>major</b> The subject you take most of your college courses in.</p>
<p><b>schedule</b> A list of the courses you take and when and where they meet.</p>	<p><b>diploma</b> A certificate saying you have successfully completed school.</p>

<p>graduation The ceremony at which you receive your diploma.</p>	<p>professor The title of a teacher at a college.</p>
<p>entrance requirements Standards you must meet to get into college.</p>	<p>graduation requirements Standards you must meet to get a degree.</p>
<p>career A chosen job.</p>	<p>application A written statement to get admitted into college.</p>

We left four spaces for more words.  
Keep adding. List more words that you learn as you work on KIDS TO COLLEGE. Write your own definitions and then give examples.

Use your word bank when you write about college and careers.



## College-Careers CONNECTIONS INTERVIEW GUIDE

Here are questions to ask college students. Write the number of your question as you take notes. Do not write down everything the student says. Write down the things that are important.

### College Student Career Preparation Questions:

1. Why did you choose this college?
2. What do you like about this college?
3. What career do you plan to have when you finish college?
4. How did you decide to prepare for this kind of career?
5. What do you like about this kind of career?
6. What problems have you faced as you have been learning, and how have you solved them?
7. What changes in your plans have you made since you started college?
8. What things that you learned in elementary school have helped you to do well in college?
9. Where do you plan to be ten years from today, and what do you plan to be doing then?
10. (Your questions.)

### CAREER INTERVIEW

If possible, interview people who have finished college and are working in careers you are interested in yourself.

Step 1: Look through the list of questions. Add any other questions that you want to ask the worker.

Step 2: Make an appointment to interview the worker.

Step 3: Ask the questions on your list.

Step 4: Review your notes. Think about the answers.

Step 5: Write about the worker. You can draw pictures or use photographs to help tell about this career.

### Career Interview Questions:

1. How did you get your job?
  2. What do you do in this job?
  3. Why did you choose this kind of career?
  4. What things that you learned in college do you use in your work?
  5. How has your job changed since you started doing it?
  6. What training or courses have you had since you started your career?
  7. What are your plans for the future?
- Add other questions you want to ask about this person's career.

## READING A COLLEGE MAP

Use a map of the college you will visit to answer these questions.

1. What are four different kinds of places that are at the college? We did the first one for you.

KIND OF PLACE	WHAT PEOPLE DO THERE
library	study, get books
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Pretend you are visiting the college.

Tell where you would start your visit.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Trace a route you would take to get food on the campus.

Where would you be? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Then go to get a book.

Where would you go? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Then go to class.

Where are you now? \_\_\_\_\_

5. You will meet a friend to work on a project. Where will you go?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What will you do next and where will you go?

\_\_\_\_\_

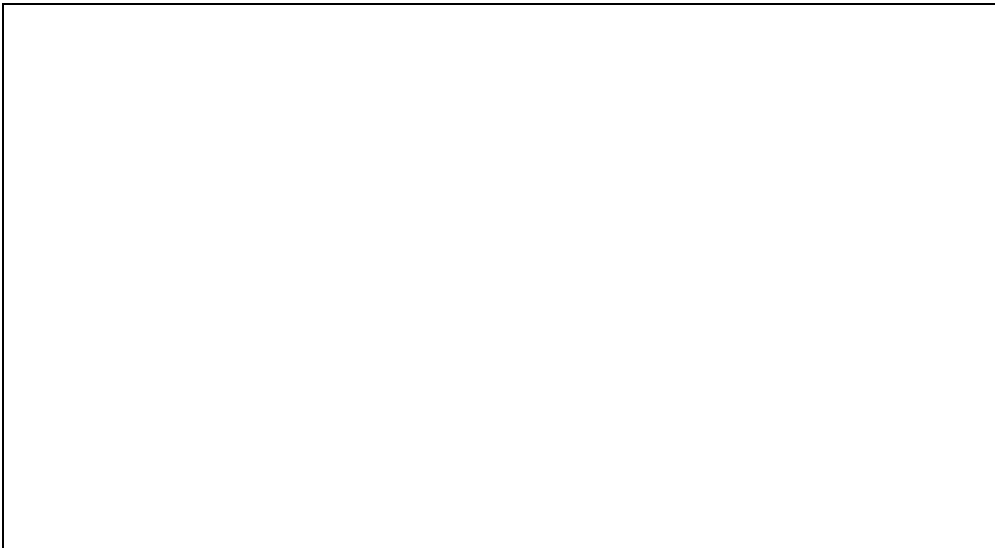
## **My College and Career Future Part 1: Planning My Future**

*Work on this activity with your family.*

Your future is built on your past. You have learned a lot, and all you have learned will help you complete school, get into college, and have a successful career. This is the first part of a book you will write about your future.

### **1. Your Foundation**

Fill in these “building blocks” to help show what you have accomplished in school so far that will help you build a solid future.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for students to draw pictures or write words to represent their accomplishments.

Draw pictures or write words in each block to show:

Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4: skills you have learned

Blocks 5, 6, 7, 8: subjects you know

Blocks 9, 10, 11, 12: abilities you have to work successfully

You have built a lot of skills, knowledge, and work abilities. Add more blocks to show even more!

## 2. Your Future

Tell about your life 15 years from today.

A. How old will you be? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Where will you live? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Will you have completed college? \_\_\_\_\_

D. What kind of job will you have? \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Getting There

Set goals for what you will do to get to that future.

Goals for Completing Elementary School
✓
✓
✓
✓

Goals for High School
✓
✓
✓
✓

Goals for College
✓
✓
✓
✓

**Persistence.** That is the key to accomplishing a goal.

On the back of this page, make a list of ways you and your family will help you be persistent.

## PERSUASIVE WRITING

Write a letter to your parent about the field trip to the college.

Be persuasive.

Write a letter that:

1. explains how the ILLINOIS KIDS TO COLLEGE PROGRAM will help you
2. gives information about the field trip to the college
3. makes it clear why the field trip is important
4. tells your parent why the trip is a great opportunity for you and your parent
5. persuades your parent to come on the trip if it is at all possible

Use this outline to prepare your letter. List the kinds of things you will write in the letter in each section.

1. How the ILLINOIS KIDS TO COLLEGE PROGRAM will help you

2. Information about the field trip to the college

3. Why the field trip is important

4. Why the trip is a great opportunity for you and your parent

5. Why your parent to come on the trip if it is at all possible

## Reading a College Catalog

A college catalog tells about the college and what people learn there.

Use the catalog to answer these questions about the college you will visit.

1. What are four things you learn from the catalog that you like about the college?

2. Find a course you like in each of these subjects. Write its name and tell what you like about it.

A. Using a computer

B. Arts

C. \_\_\_\_\_ (your choice)

D. \_\_\_\_\_ (your choice)

3. Choose one department at the college that you like a lot. Tell why you like that department.

## **My College and Career Future**

Use these outlines to write the next two parts of your College and Career Book.

### **Part 2: I'm on My Way**

I have made some plans to help me get ready for college. Here is what I plan to do to make sure I will be admitted into college.

Here are the things I want to study when I go to college.

This is the kind of degree I plan to get when I graduate from college. I will major in this subject.

This is why I want to get that degree in that major.

### Part 3: My Career Area

Use the Occupational Outlook Handbook to get information to complete this part of your book.

This is the career area my college degree will prepare me for.

Here are some of the kinds of careers that I could have when I get my college degree:

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These are some of the skills I will need to learn to work in this career area.

Reading	Communicating	Critical Thinking



## High School Interview Guide

Interview a high school senior who is getting ready to go to college next year. Use these questions in your interview. Make notes on this page. Then write about this student.

1. What college are you planning to attend?
2. Why did you choose this college?
3. What have you learned in high school that will help you succeed in college?
4. What did you tell the college about yourself in your application?
5. What advice do you have for a sixth grade student about getting into college?
6. (Add your own question here.)

## The Route from School to College

There are two ways to answer the question, how do you get from your school to the college?

1. The first way to answer the question is to write the directions.

Locate your school and the college on a map. Then write the directions for getting from your school to the college. Write them as if you were telling the bus driver how to take the class there.

2. The second way to answer the question is to list the steps you must take to get into college.

What can you do to make sure you get into college?

Write what you can do:

**Right now:**

**As I finish elementary school:**

**In high school:**

## Outline for Visiting the College

Use this outline when you visit the college. Make notes on the pages.

### PART 1: ORIENTATION

1. Who we meet when we get to the college.

2. What I learn from the orientation to the college.

### PART 2: PEOPLE AND PLACES

Visit three different places. Complete this chart when you visit each place.

<i>Write the name of the place you find.</i>	<i>What do you like about this place?</i>	<i>Tell what one person in this place does.</i>
A place students use computers:		
A place students have fun:		
A place students work together:		

### **PART 3: LEARNING**

You will go to learn in one place.

What is the place?

What do you learn there?

What do you like about this way to learn?

### **PART 4: LUNCH TALK**

During lunch, talk with at least two college students. Ask them to tell you:

1. What they like about the college.

*Student A:*

*Student B:*

2. What they plan to do when they graduate.

*Student A:*

*Student B:*

3. What advice they have for you about getting into college.

*Student A:*

*Student B:*

## A Day at College

Take your notes and write about a day at college.

Tell what people do during the day there.

Make a kind of schedule for a day at a college.

Pretend it is YOUR schedule--that you are in college.

8:00 am
9:00 am
10:00 am
11:00 am
12:00 noon
1:00 pm
2:00 pm
3:00 pm
4:00 pm
5:00 pm
6:00 pm
7:00 pm
8:00 pm
9:00 pm
10:00 pm

### Me Then, When I am in College.

You will have finished high school.

You will be enrolled in college.

Write words that tell about your friends.

Write words that tell about your activities.

Then draw or write a kind of picture story that shows you at college.


Write a letter from college. Pretend you are writing to a class of elementary students.

What will you tell them about the college and how to get ready to be in college?

Write that letter on the back of this page.

## Presentation Outline

Prepare a presentation to a class of elementary students.  
Here is an outline for that presentation.  
Make notes about what you will say.

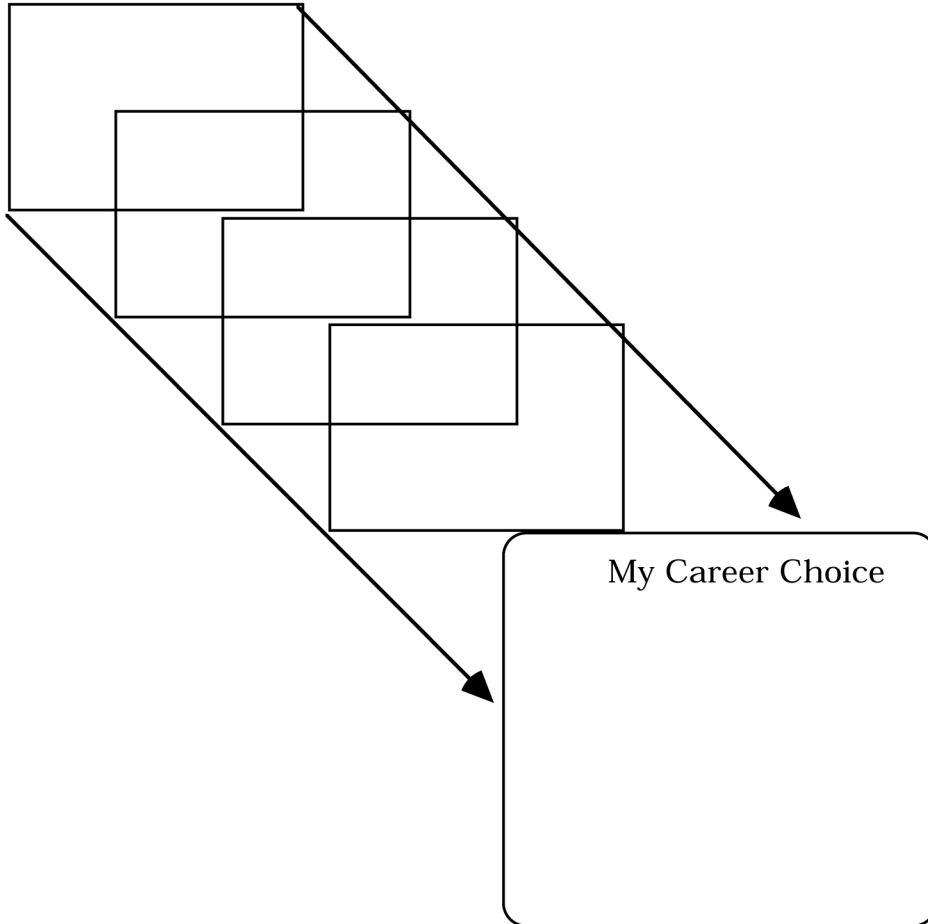
1. Why it is important to think about going to college in elementary school.
2. What you have learned about college courses.
3. What you need to do to get admitted to a college.
4. Why college is important to having a career.
5. What they will like about going to college.
6. What they can do now to start getting ready to go to college.

- Make a big map that shows the college.  
Use that map as part of your presentation.
- Make a chart that shows a typical day for a college student.
- Make a book about the college.  
Leave that book with the class so that they can read it.
- Put your display in the school library or another place so that everyone can learn from your experience.

## My Career Choice

Choose a career.

Write the name of your career at the bottom of this diagram. Draw a picture of yourself in that career. Then in the other rectangles, use words and pictures to tell the things you will do to get to that career.



## My Business Card

Design a card that tells your name, title, and place of work.





## Me in the Future

Tell about yourself at the beginning of your career. You will have finished college and have your first full-time job.

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A. My Home

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B. My Career

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C. How I Get to Work

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D. The Skills I Use at Work

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E. Why I Like My Career

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F. My Plans for the Future

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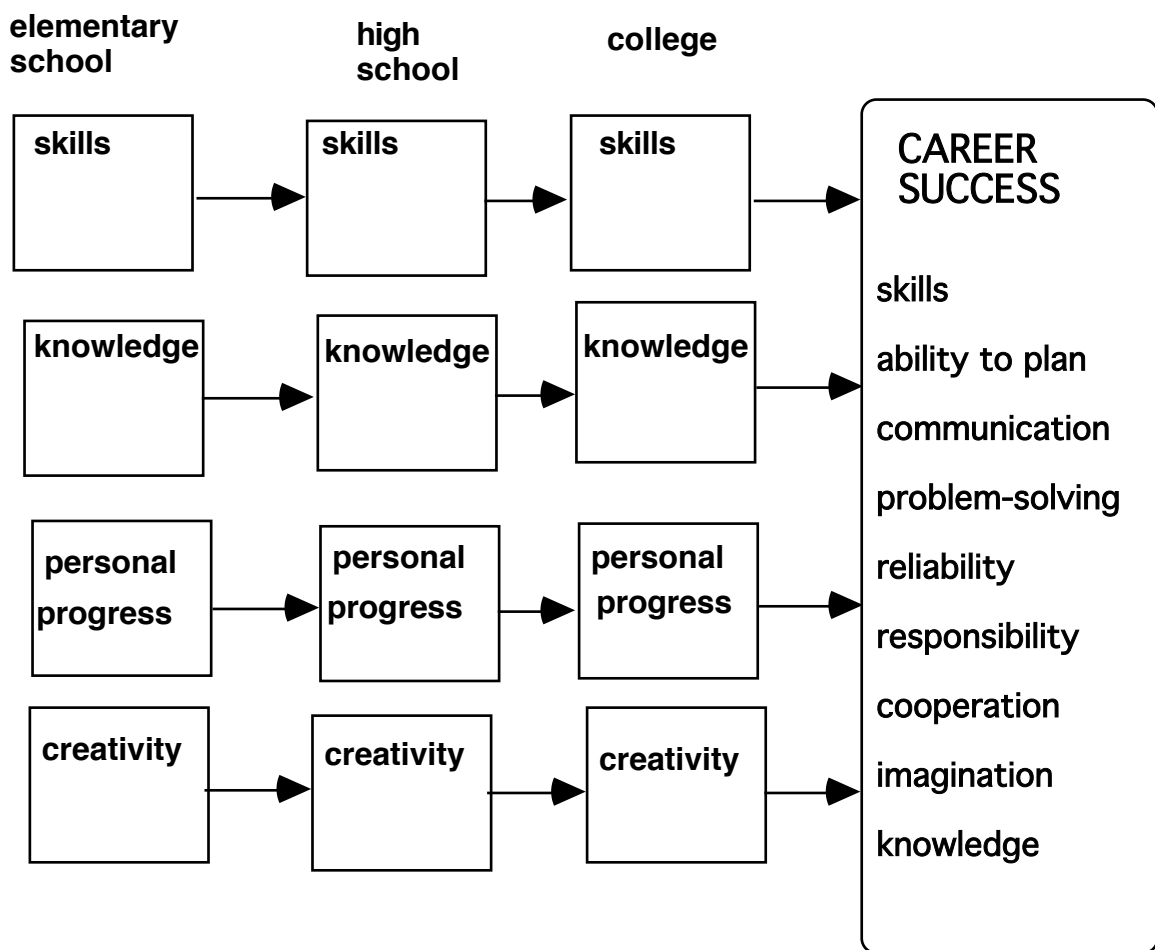
G. Why I Am Glad I Went to College

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### School-College-Career Connections: Outline for a Display

*Have your students make a diagram that illustrates the ways in which what they are learning now, what they will learn in high school, and what they will learn in college will help them reach their career goals. The following diagram is an example of this approach. Students would put examples of kinds of skill, knowledge, and personal development, and creativity they develop in the three levels of school that will help them succeed in their career of choice.*



## **Expand the Program Organize a Career and College Resource Center**

### *What is this Center?*

It is a place where members of your school community can find information about college, jobs, and planning their futures.

### *Where should the Center be located?*

Any location in your school to which many students, teachers, and parents have access. The school library is an ideal location.

### *What should go in this center?*

- A directory of individuals who will visit the school to talk about college and careers, organizations that will provide speakers about college and careers--include name of contact person. This directory can go into a three-ring binder or onto a computer data base.
- Student-written booklets relating to college and careers.
- College Catalogs
- Copies of career-related books such as the Occupational Outlook Handbook.
- Resources about Job Preparation  
Where can you get them? The Illinois Department of Employment Security, other state and city organizations can provide materials.
- Activity Guides for Teachers  
Ask the teachers in the school to contribute guides. Also write to major associations, such as the National Education Association, to get materials they produce.

### *Who should take an active role in expanding the Center?*

#### Students and Parents

- Have students organize and maintain the collection of resources.
- Ask parents to take an active role, writing to colleges and businesses, visiting with employment organizations, and making sure that your Career and College Center keeps expanding.