

# SCHOOL TO CAREERS

Andrea Hendrickson, Laura McAran & Ryan VanKampen  
Waubonsie Valley High School  
Aurora, Illinois



# About Our School

- ▶ Comprehensive 9-12 High School
- ▶ Approximately 2700 students and 250 staff members
- ▶ Growing suburban area with varied socio-economic backgrounds
- ▶ College Prep curriculum, offering over 175 courses to students



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# Why the need for Career Exploration?

Because everyone's path is different...



# Today we will discuss:

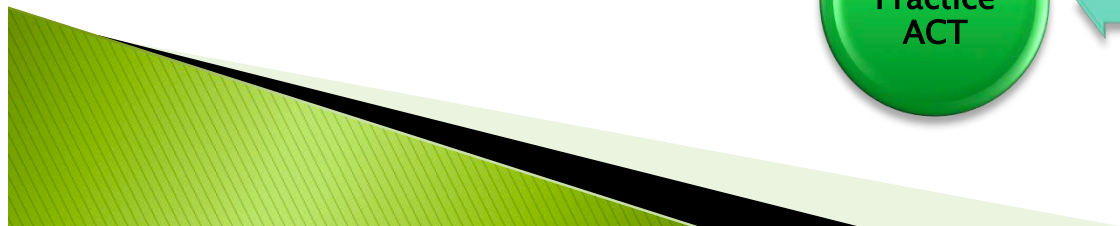
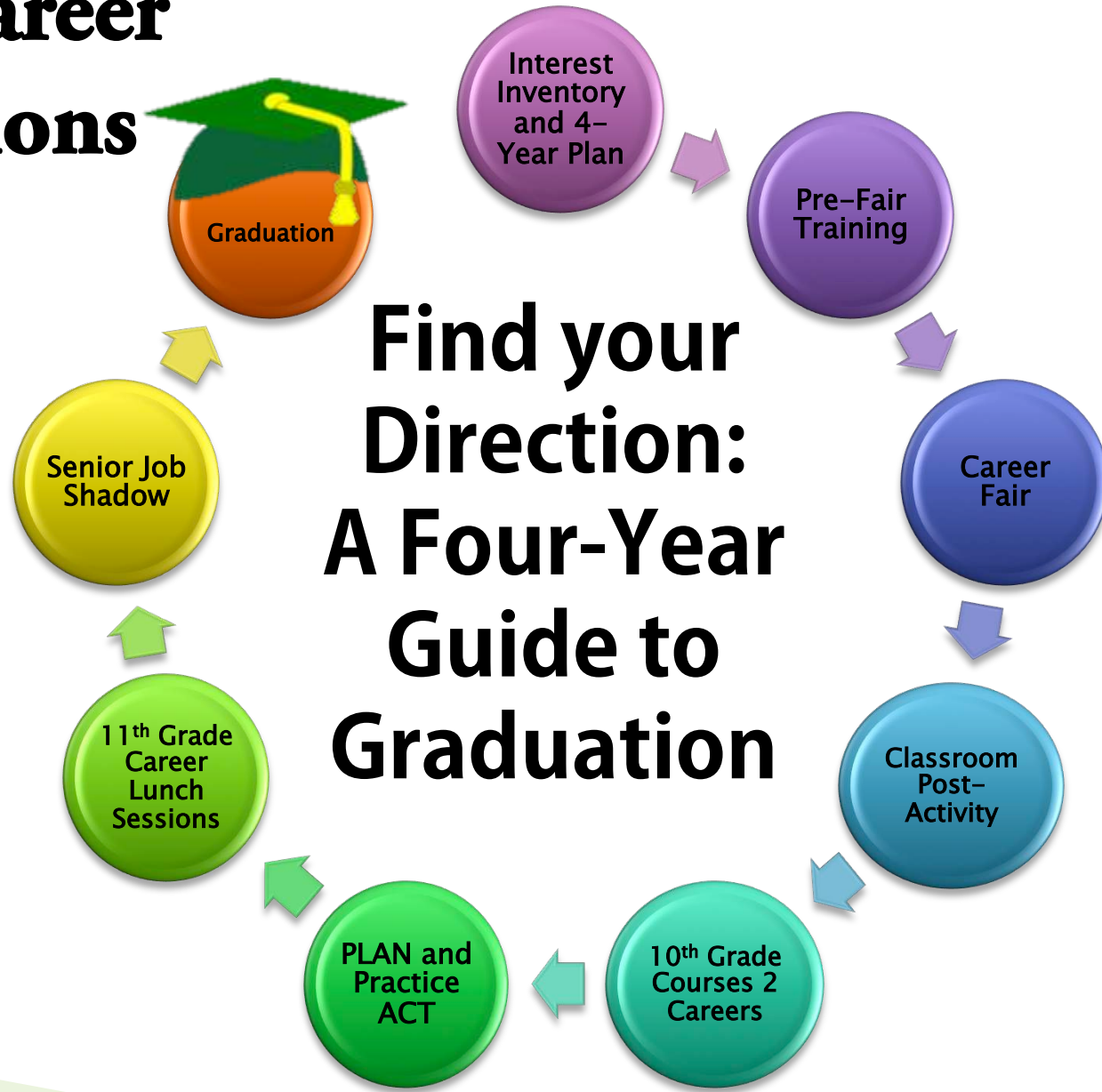
- ▶ Career Connections Program Overview
- ▶ Freshman Career Fair
- ▶ Sophomore Courses to Careers
- ▶ Junior Motivation Day & Testing Readiness
- ▶ Senior Job Shadow
- ▶ Personal Reflection and Implementation Goals



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# WVHS Career Connections



EXIT 1A

MY CAREER  
CONNECTIONS  
PROGRAM

EXIT  ONLY

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# Freshman Year

## What Do You Like To Do?



**Find the Passport to Your Future at the  
2014 Freshman Career Fair on April 24th...  
...and always do what you like!**

**Waubonsie Valley Warriors - Class of 2017**



# PLANNING a Career Fair

- ▶ Build your ALL★STAR team
- ▶ Be realistic about the time commitment
- ▶ Choose a date that works for your building
- ▶ Investigate funding sources
- ▶ Communicate with...
  - Administration – Building and District Level
  - Facilities Manager
  - Parent Groups and Student Leaders
  - Staff – Teachers, Counselors, Deans
  - Community Participants



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# MOTIVATING Staff

- ▶ Staff means everyone
- ▶ Help them see the BIG picture!
- ▶ Build relevancy with course curriculum
  - Career Clusters
  - Professional Development
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Survey staff to gauge effectiveness
- ▶ Patience and Persistence is key



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# RECRUITING Participants

- ▶ Utilize Resources Available
  - Community Relations Coordinator
  - Chamber of Commerce
  - Community Organizations
  - PTA and Parents
  - Staff and Student Contacts
- ▶ Invitations and Save the Date Cards
- ▶ Website for Registration and Info
  - <http://wvhscareerconnections.weebly.com>



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# STRUCTURING the Day

- ▶ Individualize the students' experience!
  - Interest Inventory results
- ▶ Walk the day in their shoes
- ▶ Hospitality
- ▶ Maximize staff talents; make it relevant for them, too!
- ▶ Go first class and be creative!



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**Some  
students  
need more  
direction  
than  
others...**



"Henry, I'm beginning to think  
we're on different career paths."

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# ENSURING Student Accountability

- ▶ Make the day special and exciting!
- ▶ Pre-Training for Students
- ▶ Adequate Staff Supervision and Training
- ▶ Passport and Question Insert
  - Provide room locations and individual schedule
  - Encourage reflection and active listening
  - Ensure attendance
  - Communicate further resources
- ▶ Exit Slip and Post-Fair Classroom Activities



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## Career Day Schedule

**7:45 - 8:00 Opening**

Your location: Auditorium

**8:05 - 8:55 Breakout #1**

Your location: 107

**9:00 - 9:50 Breakout #2**

Your location: 221

**9:55 - 10:45 Breakout #3**

Your location: Fieldhouse

**10:50 - 11:20 Closing**

Your location: Auditorium

*Turn in passport upon entering  
Raffle Prizes!!!!*



Naviance is an online program available to high school students in District 204. You may access it through the WVHS Homepage. Once inside Naviance, you have the opportunity to explore careers, take personality tests, learn about colleges, and find scholarships - just to name a few of the options!

## Career Resources:

### *In-School Resources:*

Your Counselor

Naviance Family Connection

<https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/auth/login/?hsid=wauvhs>

WV Course Selection Companion Guide

[http://wvhs.ipisd.org/uploads/Curriculum/2012-WV-Course\\_Companion\\_Guide.pdf](http://wvhs.ipisd.org/uploads/Curriculum/2012-WV-Course_Companion_Guide.pdf)

"What's Your Direction?" Planning Guide

[http://wvhs.ipisd.org/uploads/Curriculum/min-guide\\_revised\\_2012-direction.pdf](http://wvhs.ipisd.org/uploads/Curriculum/min-guide_revised_2012-direction.pdf)

### *Outside Resources:*

Mapping Your Future

<http://mappingyourfuture.org/MiddleHighSchool/>

Illinois Workforce & Career Information

<http://www.ides.illinois.gov/page.aspx?item=62>

Illinois Career Resource Network

[www.ilworkinfo.com/icrn.htm](http://www.ilworkinfo.com/icrn.htm)

America's Job Bank

[www.ajb.dni.us/](http://www.ajb.dni.us/)

Career One Stop

[www.careeronestop.org](http://www.careeronestop.org)

Illinois WorkNet Center

[www.illinoisworknet.com](http://www.illinoisworknet.com)

State Career Clusters

[www.careertech.org](http://www.careertech.org)

Name: Waubonsie Warrior

Student ID: 1020901

1<sup>st</sup> Pd Teacher: McAran



**PASSPORT**  
to  
**YOUR FUTURE**

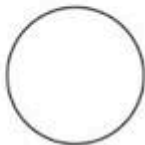
**Panel: Arts & Communication**

Something interesting I learned was...

I need to learn more about...

I would consider a future in this career cluster because...

Affix label here



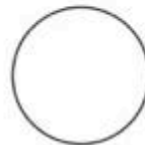
**Panel: Human Services**

Something interesting I learned was...

I need to learn more about...

I would consider a future in this career cluster because...

Affix label here



**Career Fair**

I met these people during the Career Fair...

1	Name
	Title
	Business
	Something Interesting
2	Name
	Title
	Business
	Something Interesting
3	Name
	Title
	Business
	Something Interesting



# WVHS Career Day Evaluation

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the number that matches your present level of knowledge in each statement listed below:

1 = No knowledge; 2 = Very little knowledge; 3 = Some knowledge; 4 = Much knowledge; 5 = Expert knowledge

1. My level of knowledge about career/job options: 1    2    3    4    5
2. I know where to find information and other resources regarding my career options and education:  
1    2    3    4    5
3. I have an idea of how I would like to prepare for my future: 1    2    3    4    5
4. I know how to prepare for my career choice: 1    2    3    4    5
5. After high school I plan to pursue:  
 work  
 military training  
 one-year certificate/training  
 two-year technical college/training  
 four-year college
6. I need help with:  
 college planning  
 choosing a career path  
 finding jobs/internships that match my interests  
 choosing courses at WV to match my interests  
 exploring various post-secondary options  
 improving my grades so I can expand my options

Do you have any other comments, suggestions or questions? Please use the back of this sheet if needed.





# REINFORCING the Content

- ▶ During...
  - Passport Reflections
- ▶ After...
  - English –Interview Skills
  - Math –How much will “life” cost?
  - Science – Career opportunities in science
  - Social Studies – Impact of globalization in careers
  - World Languages – Language skills and the global workplace



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# SUSTAINING the Momentum

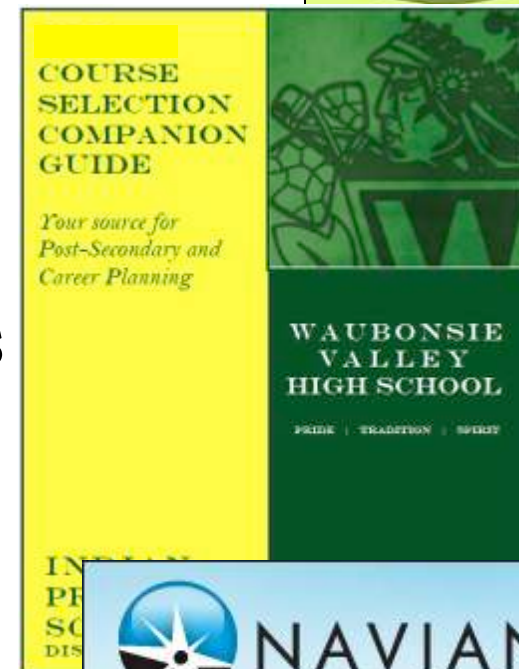
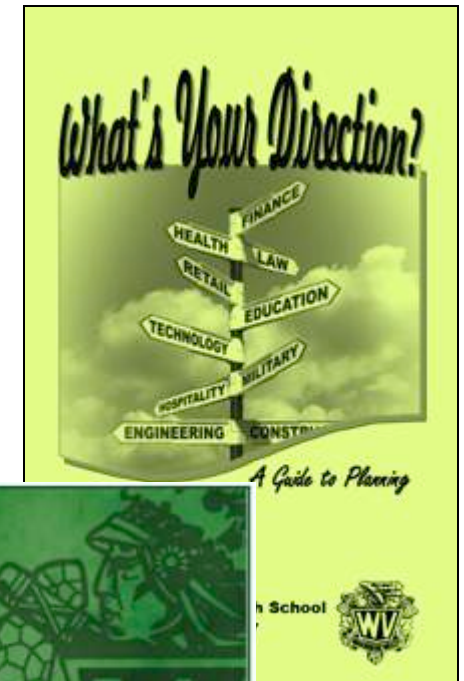
- ▶ Debriefing, Reflection, and Planning
- ▶ Ongoing dialogue with staff and students
- ▶ Continued use of Naviance Programs
- ▶ Further exploration during Sophomore, Junior, and Senior years



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# Resources

- ▶ What's Your Direction?
- ▶ Course Companion Guide
- ▶ Naviance
  - Career Clusters
  - Road Trip Nation Interviews
  - Interest Inventories
- ▶ Teachers & Counselors!



# Sophomore Year







- ▶ Focus on *Courses to Careers*
- ▶ Encourage alignment of course selection to future career goals
- ▶ Departmental ownership
- ▶ Elective Fairs
- ▶ Exchange Day

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# Junior Year

- ▶ Focus on further career exploration and testing readiness
- ▶ Individual post-secondary planning
- ▶ Business Internship
- ▶ Lunch period opportunities related to college, career, and academic topics
- ▶ State testing Motivation Day



# Motivational Strategy

- ▶ Train Junior Leaders to act as facilitators
- ▶ In-school field trip to participate in:
  - Teambuilding activities by testing alpha sort
  - Principal's address
  - Keynote speaker
- ▶ Video recap prior to 1<sup>st</sup> day of testing
- ▶ Handwritten staff-to-student cards



# Senior Year

- ▶ Bridge from exploration to application
- ▶ Finalizing post-secondary plans
- ▶ Seniors mentor during Lunch via “Wisdom of the Warrior” sessions
- ▶ Business Internship
- ▶ Career Fair Ambassador
- ▶ Job Shadow





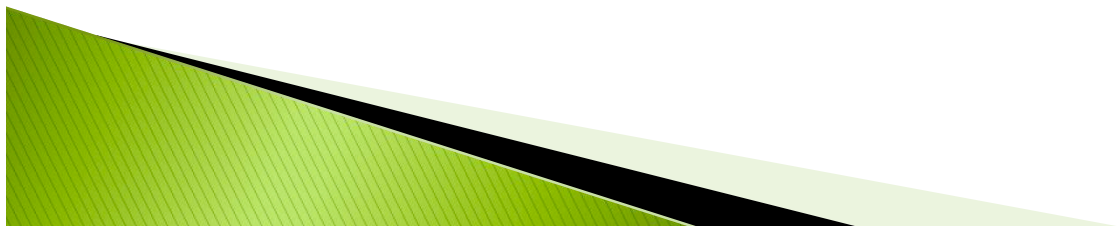
# Senior Job Shadow

- ▶ Early registration for students in January
- ▶ Obtain placements via web link on Career Connections website
- ▶ Place students in career area of interest
- ▶ “Employee Orientation” for students
- ▶ Mentor packet for job site

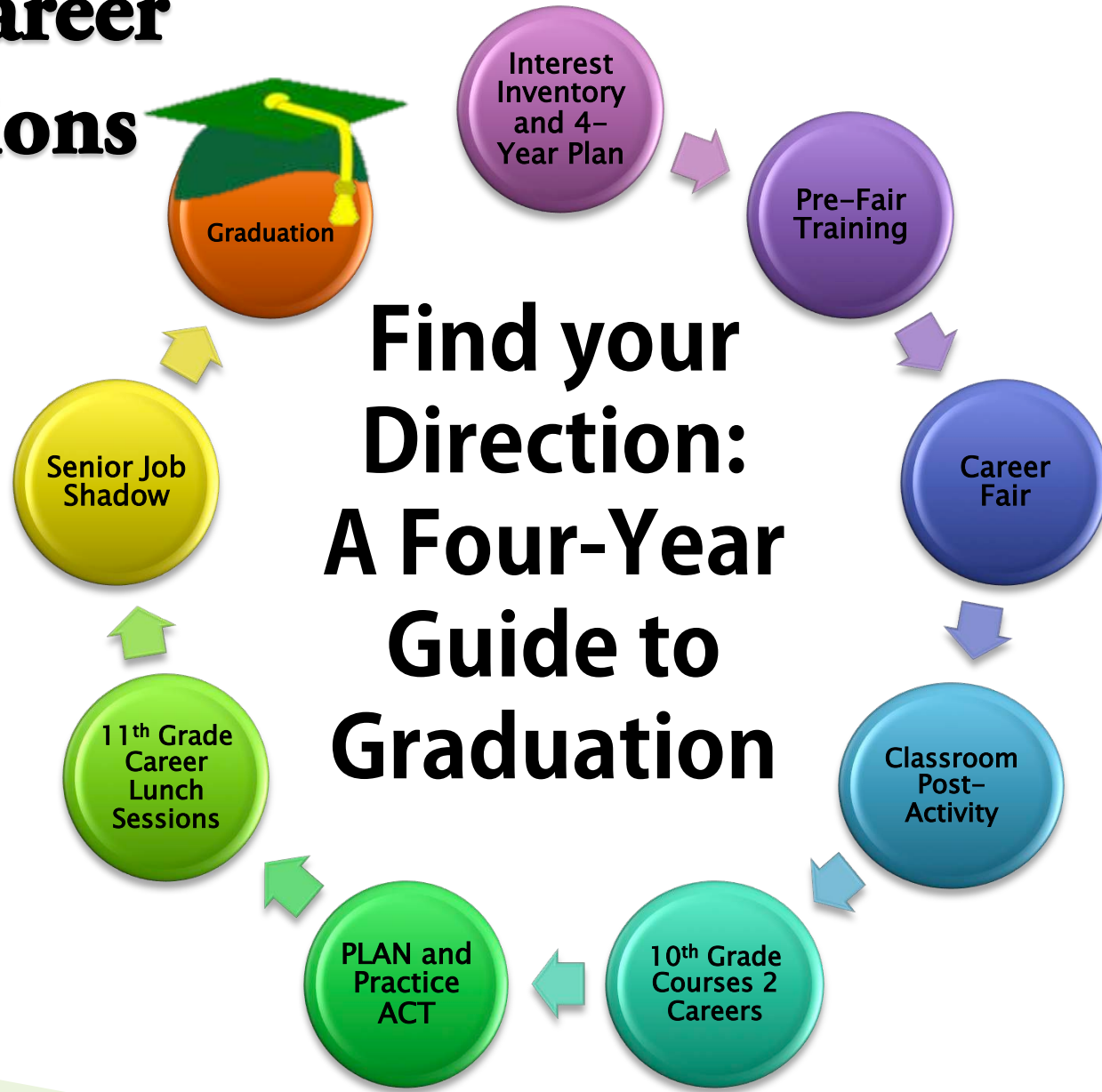


# Job Shadow Training Materials

- ▶ Job Shadow Overview
- ▶ Student Expectations and Responsibilities
- ▶ Confidentiality Agreement
- ▶ Parent Permission
- ▶ Contact Guide
- ▶ Sample Questions
- ▶ Post Job Shadow Reflection



# WVHS Career Connections



**“If you enjoy what you do, you will never work a day in your life.”**

**~Harvey Mackay**



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# Questions?

# Thank you!



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