

Empowering Students for Effective Career Conversations

This is a full, ninety-minute professional development session where participants focus on discussions relative to advising, mentoring, and coaching students for their postsecondary education and career pathways. This session can be modified to one hour, by omitting the panel discussion.

A Career Conversation is a candid, open discussion that empowers and supports students in thinking about, and developing, their postsecondary education and career pathways, and a plan to execute it.

Oftentimes, students have a notion of what they want to do, but they may not know what the education and career pathway, or plan, should entail, relative to their aspirations. Furthermore, while all students do not aspire to attend a college or university, they want viable career options from which to choose. This has posed a challenge, where all students have not had much support in their postsecondary education or finding career options.

This session addresses how the context of advising or teaching changes, based on a shift in the education and career landscape, relative to students' aspirations and needs, and the essential tools to guide them through effective career conversations, ensuring they are fortified with the knowledge to create academic and career plans, as they matriculate through their secondary education experiences.

To help institutionalize this endeavor for all students, the Planning and Career Exploration (PACE) framework was developed and aligns with the Greater Cleveland Career Consortium (GCCC). These efforts are currently embedded in sixth through twelfth grades, with plans to expand from Prekindergarten through high school, regarding work and career-based learning, where students become aware of, and have opportunities to explore occupations that align with their interests, through internships, externships, shadowing, and experiential learning opportunities. In addition, this session employs Sir John Whitmore's Goals, Reality, Options, and Will (G.R.O.W.) coaching model framework, as a tool for students' education and career coaching and development.

Through videos and a reflective exercise, participants will understand why it is important to have empower students for effective career conversations, and involve parents and caregivers in the process. Thereafter, adults can support students, as they create postsecondary education, career, and transition plans, relative to their vision and goals.