



Workforce Development Professionals are everywhere!



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NAWDP Advantage
October, 2016

How did you get started in workforce development?

Career choice determines educational need. The first time I stepped into a classroom and began teaching, I became a part of the community of professionals who prepare individuals for long-range success/achievement in a chosen career field. After 10 years, and earning a master's degree with a school counseling emphasis, I had the opportunity to provide targeted assistance to students in goal setting, career exploration/development and determining a course of action to obtain the education needed for each to reach his/her career goals. As the

career technology counselor in a high school career center, my focus is providing students the opportunity to explore options, complete applications and locate the financial assistance needed to pursue educational goals. Support services include career assessments, resume development and interview skill enhancement. Maintaining membership in professional organizations and earning certifications outside of the realm of education continues to provide a "real world" perspective that is an integral component of my interactions with students.

If you could give one piece of advice to a new workforce professional, what would it be?

Never stop learning! Expand your knowledge base through memberships in professional organizations and participate in training and networking opportunities. Investigate certifications that will enhance your ability to provide the best customer service possible to your client base. Keep abreast of

employment trends and the skills needed for success in career fields. Your clients are depending on you to be the workforce professional who can provide the assistance needed to make a positive difference in their lives.

What do you value most about your NAWDP membership?

Professionals in the field of education are often considered "out of touch"; many project the

inability to provide relevance between education and the skills required in the world of work. As a

career technology counselor I appreciate the connection with professionals in workforce development as well as the current information provided in areas critical to providing a high level of service to the client base I serve. The NAWDP Advantage newsletter insures that members are alerted to legislation impacting workforce

development as well as employment projections, effective programming and training opportunities. The NAWDP Youth Development Symposium conference I attended provided information on effective programs that are making a positive difference in the lives of young adults.

Why did you apply for the CWDP?

As a career development professional in a high school career center, it is essential that I have the knowledge base that allows me to provide outstanding customer service to the students that I work with. The CWDP is a confirmation of my

commitment to enhance my skills and increase my level of expertise in the field of workforce development. In addition, the credential is a tangible example of the value of educational pursuit – something my students hear repeatedly!