

Secretary of Labor Announces Career Voyages Web Site

Electronic tool will help bridge gap between education and workforce skills

WASHINGTON—Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao launched the *Career Voyages* Web Site at a High School Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. The result of collaboration between the Department of Labor and the Department of Education, the web site is part of a larger, more comprehensive effort to link the educational community with the world of work.

“Every worker needs a strong academic foundation in secondary school and an array of alternatives for post-secondary education and training to ensure they gain the skills necessary to succeed in today’s economy,” said Secretary Elaine L. Chao. “*Career Voyages* helps young people learn about the high growth industries where many opportunities await them, and employers find the skilled workers they need to keep our country strong and competitive.”

The new web site features detailed information about the fastest growing industries and occupations, the skills and education required to prepare for them, job openings by area, and wages, licensing requirements and growth rates for numerous occupations.

Although some career paths described on the web site require a four-year degree, *Career Voyages* expands post-secondary opportunities to include on-the-job training, apprenticeship programs for skilled trades, and two-year professional degree programs at community colleges that lead to promising careers.

“This groundbreaking web site helps ‘bridge the gap’ between education and employment skills,” said Emily Stover DeRocco, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training. “As the 21st century economy unfolds, education and workforce training must coalesce to provide a continuum of opportunity for America’s youth and transitioning workers to prepare for good jobs at good wages with career pathways.”

Announcement of the *Career Voyages* web site was made at the Department of Education’s High School Leadership Summit at the Washington Hilton and Towers. Attended by education leaders and educators, the summit increases the visibility of the challenges facing America’s high schools as well as addresses solutions and “next steps” needed to tackle those challenges.

To access *Career Voyages*, visit www.CareerVoyages.gov.

HOSA REVIEW

Career Voyages Website has Potential

At first glance one might think that he or she has entered a site that is more about science fiction than careers, but while the graphics are a little “spacey” there is no denying the wealth of information that can be found on this website.

We liked the “Chart Your Course” section because eight industries were listed and health care was one of them. The Health Care Services section has wage information, career videos, and projected job growth data for selected careers. It reinforces the fact that health careers span the educational spectrum from on-the-job training to Bachelor’s Degree and higher.

BE SURE to scroll down to the bottom of the page. There is a color poster in PDF format about health careers that HOSA Advisors will want to print and post in their classrooms. There is also a full color brochure that would be very useful to HOSA members as they go to schools and the community to talk about health careers.

Check out the “What’s Hot” section. There are many health care professions listed, including in the Biotechnology section. We also liked the fact that visitors can search the hot careers available in his or her state in the “By State” section of the home page.

The rest of the site is packed with links to career and educational sites. We were particularly impressed with the “Does Education Pay?” link and found the data to be very useful. For example:

“In July 2002, the U.S. Census Bureau published a study entitled [The Big Payoff: Educational Attainment and Synthetic Estimates of Work-Life Earnings](#). The study reports that “Adults ages 25 to 64 who worked at any time during the study period earned an average of \$34,700 per year. Average earnings ranged from \$18,900 for high school dropouts to \$25,900 for high school graduates, \$45,400 for college graduates, and \$99,300 for workers with professional degrees (M.D., J.D., D.D.S., or D.V.M.)” As published in [CareerVoyages.com](#)

We give this website ★★★★★ and encourage HOSA members to visit the site for the latest in career information that is “out of this world.”

