

# Tips for Parent/Student Career Discussions

- **Potential/Aspirations:**

Tell them that early on in their careers they will be valued more on their POTENTIAL than on their EXPERIENCE and TRACK RECORD (e.g., their aspirations, enthusiasm, work ethic, interpersonal skills, energy, etc.).

- **Interests, Strengths, and Skills:**

Help them to discover their interests, strengths, and marketable skills. (Get feedback from peers, friends, and mentors).

- **Continued Exploration:**

Continue to explore their interests and talents. Encourage them to find the answers to their questions (e.g., do they prefer working on their own, on project teams, in large organizations, and what they are honestly willing to work late nights, weekends, long hours, as required for certain jobs or careers).

- **Be Aware of Competing Forces:**

**Job Satisfaction:** Does this job/career align with your values, etc.?

**Lifestyle:** Where do you want to live? What working hours do you desire?

**Money:** What is the base salary? Is there a potential bonus? Are there long-term money options?