

NEWS RELEASE

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New Career Information Program Targets Younger Students

The Idaho Career Information System, which has been providing Idaho-specific career guidance to high school students and adults for over a quarter century, now has a program to help elementary, middle school and special population students begin thinking about what they want to be when they grow up.

CIS Junior is an online system of career development information and activities that gets students thinking about their futures. Based on the highly successful information system serving teenagers and adults, CIS Junior can help younger students answer questions like, "Who am I?", "Where am I going?", and "How do I get there?"

"As advanced educational and training resources become tighter and tighter, it's ever more important to begin planning for the future and focusing on areas that would likely be personally satisfying and rewarding," Career Information System Administrator Christie Stoll said. "CIS Junior can be a big help."

The new program provides administration tools for reports and tracking resources for graduation coaches, counselors, teachers and administrators; subject-based learning activities; a detailed implementation guidebook; letters for parents and students; a self-assessment and an interest inventory linked to Idaho's Career Clusters; occupational information and online portfolios that include student course planners to meet the Idaho Student Learning Plan requirements.

The Career Information System at www.idahocis.org offers a broad array of information on jobs, career requirements, schools and sources for the education or training needed to qualify for specific jobs. In the last year the Idaho Career Information System, which is available in over 90 percent of Idaho's school districts, colleges and universities, and other outlets in Idaho was used by over 131,000 people.

Activities in CIS Junior help students explore areas that are related to what they like to do and what they are interested in and lets them see how their interests and abilities fit into the world of work. In addition the Reality Check module, an interactive budgeting exercise, lets people understand the connection between their careers and the kind of lives they will be able to live in terms of earnings and what they can buy.

All portfolios can be transferred to any other school that has CIS Junior or eCIS, making the transition from elementary/middle school to high school easy.

More information is available from Christie Stoll at cstoll@cis.idaho.gov or (208) 334-3705.

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