



A GUIDE TO GOALS AFTER GRADUATION



8



11



14



32



38



47

Page 4 | Do You Have What It Takes?
Take this quick quiz to figure out if a two-year college is right for you...
Career Assessments and Research Resources

MEET TWO-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Read the profiles on pages 6, 10, 13, 25, 29, 31, 43, and 46

Page 7 | What is a “Middle Career”
Professions that require more than a high school diploma, but not necessarily a four-year degree make up two-thirds of the job market...Where the Jobs Are...15 Fast-Growing Middle Careers

Page 8 | Middle Careers are for Everyone
There are no such things as “men-only” or “women-only” jobs...
Overcoming Math and Science Phobias...Diversity Wanted in the Workplace...What Middle Careers Pay

Page 11 | Two-Year Degrees at Work
Look inside a typical company at the jobs that require technical or community college degrees... What it Takes to be a Technician

SPECIAL SECTION

Page 14 | 25 Middle Careers
Ideas for more than two dozen professions that require more than high school, but not necessarily a four-year college degree...Career Profiles: 25 Snapshots of Middle Careers

Page 24 | All About Career Clusters
How the 16 federal career clusters connect what you learn in the classroom to real careers

Page 26 | Preparing for a Middle Career
How to move from high school into a successful middle career...Graduate with Career Cred... Sample Classes to Take at Each Grade Level... Learning=Earning

Page 28 | Join a CTSO
How a career-technical student organization can build your skills... CTSOs Available in Most States



STATE BY STATE

Spread throughout this guide are 51 examples of

SPECIAL INFO

innovative two-year college programs—one from each state and the District of Columbia

Page 30 | Plan for Success
How creating a blueprint for your education can help you get where you want to go...Keep a Career Portfolio...Skills in Demand Among Employers

Page 32 | Inside Two-Year Colleges
What to expect when you enroll in a technical or community college...Extracurricular Activities...Life as a Commuter Student... Benefits of an Associate’s Degree

Page 34 | Choosing a Two-Year School
There may be more than one option in your area...Researching Schools...Involving Your Parents...Getting the Most from School Visits

Page 36 | Paying for Your Education
The lowdown on financial aid and other ways to afford your postsecondary education... Cutting College Costs... Finding Scholarships... FAFSA: The Key to Financial Aid... Earning Education and Skills Through the Military



Page 38 | Hot Two-Year Degrees
Which areas of study are most likely to give you skills that sell?... How to Select a Program...Fields That Offer Advancement Opportunities...Getting Experience While in School

Page 40 | The Two-Year Pathway to a Four-Year Degree
Students everywhere are saving time and money by starting to pursue four-year degrees at technical or community colleges...The Ins and Outs of Transferring to a Four-Year School...From High School Diploma to a Bachelor’s Degree: A Sample Pathway

Page 42 | Bosses Speak
What employers want in graduates of two-year schools

Page 44 | On Your Own
Living expenses for single young men and women

Page 47 | Explore More
Where to go online to find out more about two-year college options and middle careers