**Class Discussion: Factors in a Career Decision- Faculty Instructions**

**Module 1: The Career Planning Process: An Overview**

*Topic: Factors to Consider in Making a Career Decision*

This is a whole-class discussion. If possible in your classroom, consider moving desks or chairs into a circle or square where students can see all of their classmates. This discussion is based around the “corkboard” activity (and follow-up video clip) that has students evaluate 8 potential factors to consider when making a career decision and decide whether they personally feel that each factor should or should not be considered. The discussion outline is below.

**Discussion Outline:**

The structure of this particular discussion is very simple. Using the same discussion questions for each, you will work your way through the eight factors from the corkboard activity. Consider writing the factor you are currently discussing on the board or putting it up on the screen.

The eight factors/items are:

* Following your dreams
* Which careers are most in demand
* What your family wants you to do
* Job market research
* Your interests, abilities, and values
* What jobs exist where you want to live
* What academic subjects you like most
* What your friends think you’d be good at

**Part 1**

*For each of the above items, ask the following questions:*

1. (Poll question) Do you personally feel that this is a factor you should consider when deciding on a career? (Have students raise hands for yes, then for no.)
2. If you feel it’s something that either you personally would consider, OR that everyone should consider, tell us why.
3. If you don’t feel it’s something that you personally would consider, OR that anyone should consider, tell us why.
4. Who wasn’t sure whether it should be considered or not? Tell us your thoughts. Has listening to the points made by your classmates helped to sway you?

**Part 2**

1. Besides these, what other factors do you think students should consider when deciding on a career, or what are some additional factors YOU are considering?
2. What are some additional factors you’ve seen other students consider when deciding on their careers that you thought weren’t such a good idea to consider?
3. Do you think that there are certain factors that EVERYONE should either consider or not consider when deciding on a career, or do you think it depends on the person?
4. How do you think personal values affect how individuals go about deciding on a career?