WHAT’S THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AT YOUR SCHOOL?

Picture the Possibilities: Parents submitted pictures of themselves working, their career path and skills they use. Then we posted the pictures on a bulletin board and had books made for each classroom.
Hayley Arnold, Old Bonhomme Elementary, St. Louis, Mo.

CRUNCH (Career Lunches): We have individuals from different careers spend each lunch block with a small group of students (12-14) discussing their career path and career.
Lauren Tenbus, Wallenpaupack Middle School, Hawley, Pa.

We have a manufacturing pathway, which is a partnership among our school, the community college and local businesses, that provides a direct pipeline to jobs within the community.
Len Egan, West Chicago Community High School, West Chicago, Ill.

MacTivities for College/Career Readiness: Intermediate students choose from 20 grade-level activities to explore college and career choices for their future. Completing 10 of the MacTivities earns students college gear and a field trip to two colleges.
Laurie Tristan, MacArthur Fundamental Intermediate School, Santa Ana, Calif.

Agriculture is the biggest career influence in my community. Our school decided to participate in that field by conducting Ag Day, an agricultural career day every year.
Lakesha Wilson, M.E. Lewis Elementary School, Sparta, Ga.

Senior Interview Day: In the fall, our students prepare their resumes and dress up for individual interviews, given by our parent volunteers and alumni. They practice the interview process from a firm handshake to a thank you follow-up e-mail and receive helpful written feedback from the volunteer interviewers.
Sasha Lo, Mater Dei High School, Irvine, Calif.

Career Palooza: Pre-K-2 students rotate through “touch a truck” presenters, and grade 3-5 students select three careers to explore during engaging 30-minute sessions.
Cathy Stainbrook, Lincoln Elementary School, Waterloo, Iowa.

We stopped taking our middle school students to larger regional career fairs and started hosting our own. We have had an incredible response from our parents and community members, who volunteer as career role models. Now our students get lots of individual face time with our career representatives in a less-chaotic environment. The students learn a great deal about different career fields, and they also get to practice interacting with adults in a professional manner.
Emily Lehr, Oakville Middle School, St. Louis, Mo.

I link our monthly character traits (cooperation, patience, etc.) at our primary school to a type of job (teachers, stay-at-home parents, nonprofit employees). I then request a speaker from that particular occupation to talk about character education at our school assembly honoring students displaying the trait.
Meche Brownlow, Astoria Elementary, Astoria, Ore.

World of Work Wednesdays: The purpose is to introduce all of our students to all 16 career clusters and to make career exploration/education a topic discussed by all teachers not just the school counselor. I created the plans for teachers to implement during 10-15 minutes of morning meeting one day a week. Each week I provide them with review questions, the new topic, video links and discussion questions.
Cynedi Korn, Nathanael Greene Elementary School, Stanardsville, Va.

Bright Futures Week: Classroom guidance lessons, daily announcements, college/career spirit days, student participation in trivia and prize drawings, collaboration with media department on technology-based college/career lessons/exploration.
Elizabeth Martin, Jackson Elementary School, Valparaiso, Ind.

Two years ago I started by offering a career day for K-4 students, with four-five presenters for each grade level, from a variety of careers and trades. They each spoke for about 15-20 minutes, and the classes rotated. This ensured each grade level was exposed to four-five different speakers that day. The next year we expanded to include the middle school, and I added career classroom lessons to the K-4 classes during the month leading up to career day. This has been a huge hit in our community and a great way to expose young children to the world of careers/trades.
Emily Ruby, Kingsley Elementary School, Kingsley, Mich.

Integrating career games such as “Guess my Job!” Students in grades K-2 think of a career, and the others guess what it is, just to gain more familiarity with different careers.
Darcy Vernon, Wray Elementary School, Wray, Colo.

Students are encouraged to dress-up and celebrate a different occupation each Thursday. The students write about their chosen career of the day. The best description of their chosen job wins.
Sonya Sumrall, Oak Park Elementary School, Laurel, Miss.

IS COLLEGE/CAREER READINESS INTEGRATED INTO YOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM?
YES 65.5%  NO 8.3%  SOMEWHEAT 26.2%

DOES YOUR HIGH SCHOOL HOST A COLLEGE SIGNING DAY/POSTSECONDARY COMMITMENT DAY?
YES 71%  NO 29%

DOES YOUR HIGH SCHOOL OFFER WORK-BASED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS (E.G., INTERNSHIPS, APPRENTICESHIPS, JOB SHADOWING)?
YES 53%  NO 47%

WAS SCHOOL COUNSELING YOUR FIRST CAREER?
YES 38%  NO 62%

Source: ASCA member survey, August 2017