**Class Discussion- Faculty Instructions**

**Module 7: Career Preparation – Becoming Employable**

*Topic: Perceptions about College and Employability*

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. The discussion outline is below.

**Discussion Outline:**

**Part 1: Motivations for Attending College**

1. (Poll question) How many of you think getting a college degree will help you get a good job?
2. (Poll question) How many of you consider getting a good job to be one of your main motivations for going to college?
3. Who would like to share their motivations for coming to college?
4. If you didn’t think college would help you get a good job, would you still have come? Why or why not?

**Part 2: Messages about College and Employability**

1. Where did your belief that going to college would lead to a good job come from? (Take a few responses before moving on to the questions below.)
   1. What messages did you receive from parents or family members about the role of college in preparing for a career?
   2. What messages did you receive from (high school or earlier) teachers or counselors?
   3. What messages did you receive from the media?
2. What specifically were you told about what college would do for you with regard to a career? (Were you told having a degree would guarantee you a good job? Were you told you’d never be able to get a good job without one? Were you told your college education would prepare you for a career? Were you told your college studies would *train* you for a career? Etc. When a student volunteers something specific they were told, poll the class to see who else has been told something similar.)
3. How have the messages you received from others about the role of college in career preparation affected your beliefs and actions?

**Part 3: Beliefs about the Role of a Degree in Employability**

1. (Poll question) How many of you, when you first came to college, assumed that by just getting your degree you’d be employable for whatever you consider a “good job” to be?
2. (Poll question) How many of you assumed that your major would train you for a career?
3. Who would like to share what their expectations of college and a college degree were when they first came to college?
4. Have your feelings about college and role it plays in employability changed since going through this module? How? (Try to focus responses on the *feelings/*emotional reaction part rather than simply repeating information from the module [ i.e. “I learned that…”] Many students have strong reactions to the “a degree is not enough” message, particularly when it challenges a former belief that a degree alone results in employability. Explore these feelings and reactions with your class, help them process, and then make sure to focus the discussion in a positive/proactive direction.)
5. How can you use the information you’ve learned to help ensure you’re able to achieve your employability goals?