**Family Tree Activity - Faculty Instructions**

**Module 4: Identifying and Researching Career Options**

This activity will expand on what your students did in the module when they started making a list of family members’ careers. Career counselors sometimes have students create a career genogram in order to explore in more depth what careers they have been exposed to and how their family backgrounds have affected their work values. This activity will allow students to think more about the careers they’ve been exposed to through their family, and how that has impacted both what careers they know about and what types of careers they feel inclined to want to pursue.

First, have your students create their family tree. Here are the directions you’ll give:

* You can make your family tree in any way you’d like. Be creative. You can use any types of symbols or drawings you wish.
* Go back as many generations as you can based on your knowledge, and for extended family, include as many people on your tree as you are aware of.
* Include first names that you know. You don’t need to worry about last names.
* Under each (adult) person’s name, write what their career is or was, if you know. If a person had multiple careers, list all that you are aware of. If someone was a stay at home parent or did not work, write that in as well.

If you want, you can copy and paste these directions into a document and have them displayed for the class on the projector while they work.

When they have finished creating their family trees, divide them up into small groups. Group members will take turns answering the following questions, but only give/display one question at a time to encourage group discussion around that particular topic before moving on.

* How much do you think the careers you’ve been exposed to through family members have affected your own career choices or career interests? (Be specific and provide examples or stories.)
* Looking at your family tree, are there themes that emerge in your family’s career paths? Are there any expectations for you to “fit into” your family tree with your own career choice?
* Which family members are/were regarded as successful in life? What has that taught you about what kind of career you should choose?
* Which person on your family tree do you feel you are the most similar to or have the most in common with? What affect has that person’s career path had on your career choices or interests?
* To what extent has your family encouraged you to explore careers outside of those any family member has had?

You may wish to follow this activity with the reflective writing assignment for this module, which will have students expand on one or more of the above topics.

Alternatively, you can do this activity as an assignment by having your students create their family tree outside of class (perhaps utilizing technology rather than paper/pencil), and having them complete the corresponding reflective writing prompt.