
New Career Awareness and Career Counseling Options

(August 6, 2015)

Jump Start has dramatically accelerated the use of innovative systems and services that expand our student's career awareness and career counseling opportunities.

Career Awareness Systems

Jump Start is helping schools across Louisiana use technology platforms that put teachers and students directly in touch with industry experts across the state and the country.

One system used by hundreds of Louisiana teachers and students is Nepris (www.Nepris.com). Nepris is a web-based platform that makes it easy for teachers and their students to connect with industry professionals to support class lessons, projects and competitions. Nepris matches the skills and interests of industry professionals with a teacher's request to give students access to experts and workplaces that they otherwise might never experience.

These video links demonstrate how schools far removed from high-demand industry facilities can still provide their students with hands-on, expert-driven workplace experiences.

Video 1: Serving a rural school: <http://youtu.be/ie7tqrKtlkk>

Video 2: Helping students envision an unbounded future for themselves: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lXqyzNgYFZY>

Many regional teams, school districts and charter schools are integrating career awareness systems like Nepris into their Jump Start career and technical education (CTE) classes. For more information about how Louisiana educators are leveraging Nepris to help their students excel please contact JumpStart@la.gov

Career Counseling Options

At the last Jump Start Convention, leading educators offered presentations on the variety of career counseling models Louisiana schools are currently implementing. These models include:

- Internal career counseling, perhaps best exemplified by the excellent counseling processes now provided to students in all Ascension Parish high schools;
- Career counseling systems like Kuder® Navigator™, an online education and career planning system that gives secondary students the tools they need to build a foundation for lifelong career success. Kuder's scientifically validated career assessments help students in grades six through 12 learn about their personal interests, skills, and work values, and help narrow their education and career choices; and
- External career counseling, exemplified by Career Compass. Career Compass is Louisiana's non-profit authority on college and career access, dedicated to helping students statewide achieve their post-secondary aspirations. Career Compass has become synonymous with best practices in career counseling by providing districts with a cost-effective, data-driven college and career counseling model. Career Compass professionals provide hands-on mentoring, the one-on-one attention necessary for all students to succeed. The founders of Career Compass, former Louisiana public school teachers, have played an important role in shaping the Jump Start program.

Next Steps

The Department of Education actively encourages schools to provide expanded career awareness and career counseling services to students, whatever form they take. To learn more about career awareness systems and career counseling options, and what leading districts and schools are doing across Louisiana, please contact JumpStart@la.gov