



Pathways to Possibilities

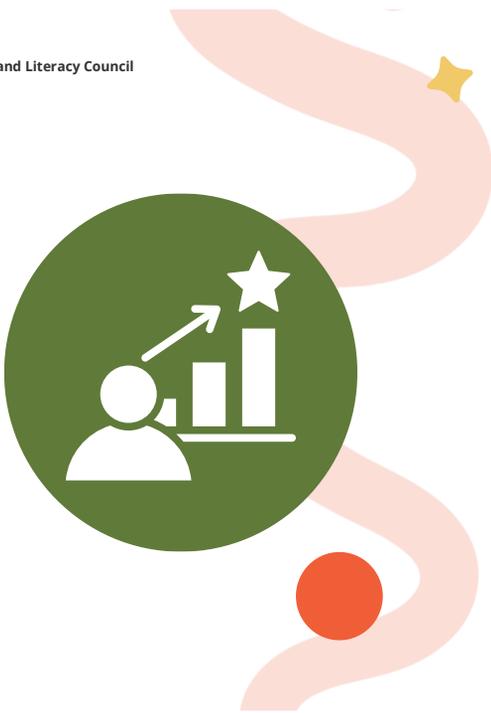
Empowering Adult Learners to Explore
Career and Education Pathways

Dinah Ramirez
Volunteer Engagement Coordinator

Today's Agenda

- Why Career Exploration Matters
- Understanding Learner Goals
- Understanding Career & Education Pathways
- Tools for Exploring Interests & Careers
- Connecting Learners to Next Steps
- Wrap-up & Reflection





Reflection Activity

What career did you dream of as a child?

How did your interests change over time?

What helped you find your career path?

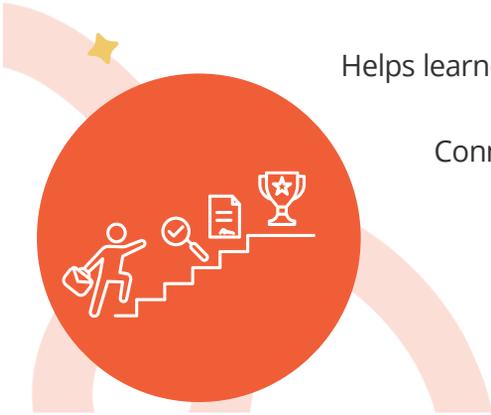
Why Career Exploration Matters

Builds motivation and persistence

Helps learners see the purpose behind lessons

Connects instruction to real goals and opportunities

Boosts confidence and sense of possibility



Understanding Learner Goals

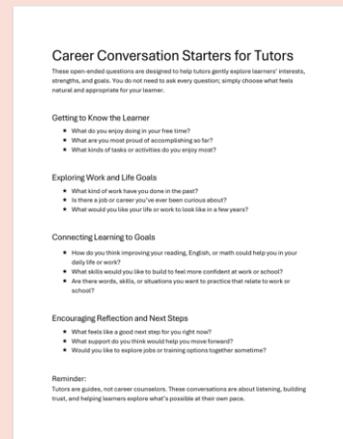
- Adult Learners often start with short-term learning goals
- Career and education goals may be unspoken or still forming
- Conversations about goals can increase motivation and trust

What this looks like in tutoring...

- ✓ Ask open-ended questions
- ✓ Listen for interests, skills, and life experiences
- ✓ Follow-curiosity...not a checklist

Career Conversation Starters

- A quick reference handout with open-ended questions
- Designed for ESL, reading, and math tutoring
- Use what feels natural; no need to ask every question



Included in today's handouts

Oakland Literacy Council

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What kinds of goals have your learners shared with you?

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Understanding Career and Education Pathways

What are Pathways?



A sequence of small, realistic steps



Multiple routes into a career or field



Building from learners' backgrounds, strengths, and experiences to explore what's possible

Barriers, Motivators, and Needs

Common Barriers: Language, time, transportation, confidence

Common Motivators: Family, stability, personal growth, a need for change

Needs: Support, guidance, encouragement



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GED Student Story Meet Kelly

- Kelly worked as a hospital janitor while studying for her GED.
- She dreamed of becoming a paralegal but struggled with GED Math.
- Worked with an OLC tutor and used Essential Ed Online to study.
- Passed her GED in Aug 2024!
- Applied to Oakland Community College's paralegal program.
- Applied and received tuition support through Michigan Reconnect with help from an Oakland80 Career and Education Navigator.
- **Currently enrolled at OCC and continuing her studies!**

**Career goals don't require everything to be figured out at once!
Progress happens one step at a time.**

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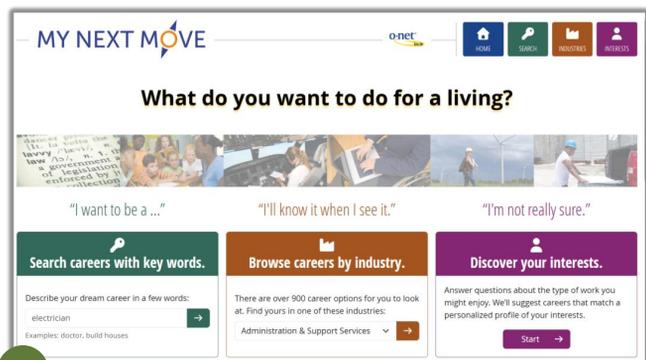
Tools for Exploring Interests and Careers

MyNextMove.org

A free website created by the U.S. Department of Labor

MyNextMove helps students:

- explore careers by interest or industry
- learn what different jobs actually involve
- see education, training, and skill requirements
- get personalized career suggestions based on their interests



MyNextMove.org

Discover your Interests > O*Net Interest Profiler

Discover your interests.

Answer questions about the type of work you might enjoy. We'll suggest careers that match a personalized profile of your interests.

[Start →](#)

Will take you to the **O*Net Interest Profiler** [onetinterestprofiler.org](https://onetest.net/interestprofiler/)

o.net interest profiler

145 Social careers shown

Choose another interest area

- Realistic [?]
Your score: 1
- Investigative [?]
Your score: 0
- Artistic [?]
Your score: 3
- Social [?]
Your score: 11
- Enterprising [?]
Your score: 8
- Conventional [?]
Your score: 9

o.net interest profiler

145 Social careers shown

Choose another interest area

Realistic [?]
Your score: 1

Social

You like work that involves: helping, teaching, advising, assisting, or providing service to others.

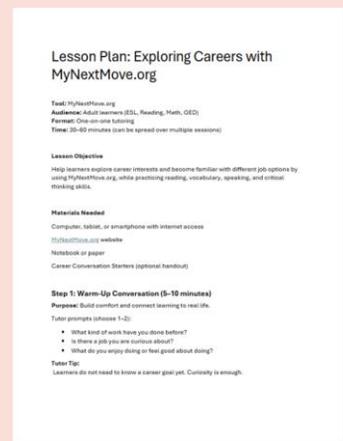
You like to work with: people, services, social settings, health, or communication.

You might specifically be interested in:

- Animal.Service
- Culinary.Art
- Health.Care.Service
- Human.Resources
- Personal.Service
- Professional.Advising
- Religious.Activities
- Social.Science
- Social.Service
- Teaching/Education

Lesson Plan: Exploring Careers with MyNextMove.org

- Ready-to-use lesson plan created for tutors
- Flexible for ESL, Reading, Math, and GED students
- Can be used in short segments or full sessions
- Focuses on conversation, exploration, and learning goals



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Roadmap2opportunity.org

A project of Michigan College Access Network

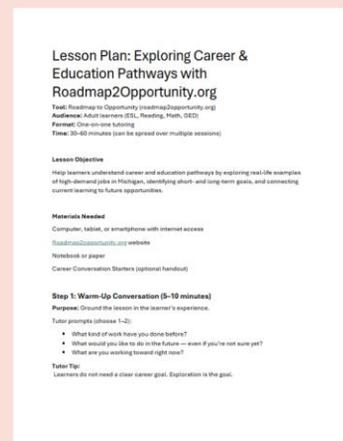
Helps students:

- explore high-demand, high-wage careers in Michigan
- learn about careers that start with a certificate or associate degree
- see how education can lead to growth, advancement, and higher wages



Lesson Plan: Exploring Career & Education Pathways with Roadmap2opportunity.org

- Ready-to-use lesson plan created for tutors
- Flexible for ESL, Reading, Math, and GED students
- Practice listening, reading, vocabulary, and math using real career information
- Supports goal-setting and next-step conversations

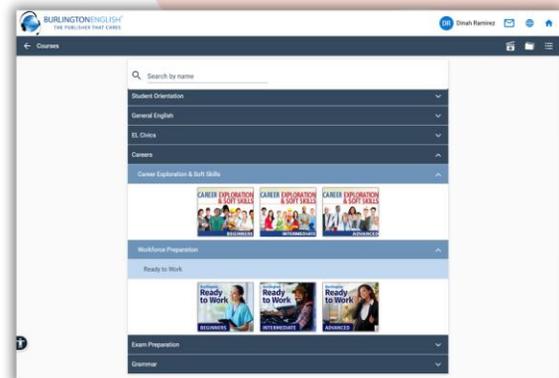


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BurlingtonEnglish.com

Helps students:

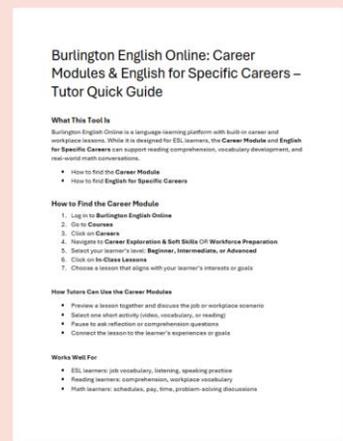
- build workplace English and career vocabulary
- explore job roles and workplace expectations
- practice reading, listening, and communication skills
- connect language learning real-world careers



- **ESL students already have access**
- **Reading, Math, and GED students/tutors can request access if they'd like to use it**

Burlington English Career Lessons - Tutor Quick Guide

- Directs you to ready-to-use lessons created for tutors and students
- Flexible for ESL, Reading, Math, and GED students
- Practice listening, reading, vocabulary, and math using real career information
- Supports goal-setting and next-step conversations



Included in today's handouts



Applying Tools in Tutoring Sessions

Think about your current student:

- Which tool best fits their goals and needs?
- What is one small action you could try next?

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Connecting Learners to Next Steps





Anelia Petrov
Oakland80 Navigator
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Oakland80

An Oakland County initiative designed to assist residents in securing a degree or credential beyond high school. Its goal is for 80% of Oakland County working age adult to have a post-secondary degree or credential by the year 2030.

Career and Education Navigators support with:

- Applications and enrollment to post-secondary degrees and certificates
- Financial aid for tuition, books, supplies
- Student aid for transportation and childcare

[Learn more here](#)

**Michigan Works! Locations**

- Novi
- Oak Park
- Pontiac
- Southfield
- Troy
- Waterford

Refugees & Immigrants Navigator (RAIN) Program

For refugees or work-authorized immigrants who want help with overcoming barriers to employment.

Free Services and Resources:

- Job search assistance
- Career advising
- Workforce and labor market employment info
- Training programs
- Referrals to other needed programs and services
- and more!

[Learn more here](#)



Elisa Echeverria
Global Talent Job Coach
248-823-5106
eecheverria@troy.k12.mi.us

Skilled Immigrant Integration Program

For immigrants and refugees with advanced professional degrees, training, or certifications from an educational institution outside of the United States who want to join the U.S. workforce. **The Global Talent Job Coach can evaluate educational credentials, translate transcripts, and provide resources to navigate the U.S. job market.**

Eligibility Criteria:

- Advanced professional training degree or credential
- Authorization to work in the US
- Intermediate to advanced English Skills
- Digital Literacy Skills

[Learn more here](#)

Next Steps Info Sheet

Oakland80

- Support with education beyond High School and GED.

Michigan Works! Rain Program

- For refugees or work-authorized immigrants who want help with overcoming barriers to employment.

Michigan Works! Skilled Immigrant Integration Program

- For refugees or work-authorized immigrants who want help with overcoming barriers to employment.



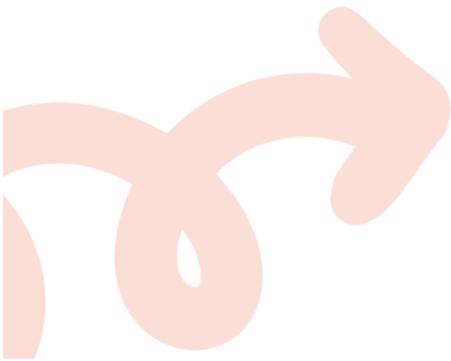
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Wrap-up and Reflection

Key Takeaways



- **Career exploration builds motivation and confidence**
- **Tutors guide reflection – not career decisions**
- **Simple tools can spark meaningful conversations**
- **Small steps can lead to big momentum**

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What's your next step?

- Think of everything we discussed today.
- Name one action you'll do next.



Resources & Support

- Handouts and lesson plans will be shared with you after the training
- Workshop recording will be shared in the tutor monthly newsletter and hosted on our YouTube channel
- Contact the OLC office or your Program Coordinator anytime you need support or guidance



Thanks
for your
support

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