

# Career Exploration and Virtual Job-Shadowing

## What is iQ: smartparent?

*iQ: smartparent* is an Emmy-winning multimedia television and web series designed for parents that will empower them with new knowledge, tools, and abilities to successfully guide their children through the changing landscape of digital media and technology. It's a growing community of caregivers, national experts, educators, and parent bloggers who want to understand the opportunities and challenges of media as it relates to the development of their children. *iQ: smartparent* was created by WQED Multimedia in 2012.

## About this Episode

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, about 80% of students in the United States end up changing their college major at least once; and college students on average change their majors *three times* over the course of their college careers! Now, new technology makes it easier than ever for teens to explore occupations online – and even go on “virtual job shadows” – while they’re still in high school so they can make better, and more informed, decisions about careers that interest them. On this episode of *iQsmartparent*, education experts and career counselors reveal strategies and digital resources to help young people explore their interests and aptitudes and make professional connections online. We’ll also explore a 21<sup>st</sup> century phenomenon and educational challenges as parents consider how to talk to young children about possible careers because, according to a World Economic Forum report, 65% of children entering primary school today will ultimately end up working in completely new job types *that don’t even exist yet!*

## Discussion Questions

1. Does your child’s school do any career exploration? How much of it uses online exploration?
2. What are some jobs your child has expressed an interest in? How did they learn about these jobs? How did they find out more about them?
3. Would you consider participating in a virtual career fair? Why or why not?
4. Check out some of the videos from “Career Connections” in the Online Resources section. What were some surprising things you learned about the jobs you explored?
5. How has technology made it easier for students in their pursuit of future careers? How do you see this process changing in the future?
6. Have you ever visited the library to do career exploration? What are some resources related to career exploration which are unique to the library?

## About the Guests

**Emily Rolen** is an economist in the Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). She has spent the majority of her 11 years at BLS with a focus on healthcare employment. Emily takes pride in producing objective employment projections data that equip educators, researchers, policy makers, and jobseekers with the tools necessary to make informed career decisions.



**David Mosey** is the founding Executive Director of Smart Futures, a nonprofit organization that provides online career education programming to educators in Pennsylvania. Smart Futures' mission is to help kids "Get Real" – about who they are, where they are going and how to get there. David led the development of four online web applications: Keys2Work, eMentoring, My Career Journey and Financial Literacy 101. These programs have resulted in 100,000+ students being better prepared for college and career success. David is currently working to integrate and transform all of Smart Futures' programming into an accessible, career-planning platform for young people.



**Henry Goodelman** works to support the success of others by helping them achieve their goals. Focused on improving campus resources and academic support services throughout the field of higher education, Henry has volunteered as an eMentor with SmartFutures since 2011, and has helped lead a number of other professional development and social entrepreneurship initiatives.



**Dan Fauth** is a business teacher at Washington High School. In his 14 years with the district he has developed the curriculum for several business courses. More recently he has implemented the PAeMentoring program in his career courses and has had a lot of success connecting students with mentors outside the district to give career advice to students.



**Kelly Rottmund** is the Teen Services Coordinator for Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP). She works with a team of 40 Teen Specialists across CLP's 19 location to create welcoming neighborhood spaces where teens can explore their interests and build their own future. Kelly received her Master of Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh and has worked in both small and large, rural and urban public libraries. Kelly has presented on CLP's work with teens at numerous national conferences and written about it in a book which is forthcoming from the American Library Association.

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## Online Resources

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Occupational Outlook Handbook [www.bls.gov/ooh/](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/)

Job projection overview and highlights 2016 – 2026

[www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2017/article/projections-overview-and-highlights-2016-26.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2017/article/projections-overview-and-highlights-2016-26.htm)

Teacher's Desk – resources, games, quizzes related to career exploration [www.bls.gov/k12/](http://www.bls.gov/k12/)

Career planning tips for high school students [www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/article/career-planning-for-high-schoolers.htm](http://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/article/career-planning-for-high-schoolers.htm)

O\*NET

Resource Center [www.onetonline.org/](http://www.onetonline.org/)

Career Exploration Tools [www.onetcenter.org/tools.html](http://www.onetcenter.org/tools.html)

Career Connections – Video Collection

<https://wqed.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/career-connections/#.WgyMk1WnG70>

National Board of Professional Teaching Standards – Career and Technical Education Standards - Designed to help students foster their interests and aptitudes in sync with their intellectual, social, and emotional growth [www.nbpts.org/wp-content/uploads/EAYA-CTE.pdf](http://www.nbpts.org/wp-content/uploads/EAYA-CTE.pdf)

National Alliance for Secondary Education and Transition – Standards and Indicators for Career Preparatory Experiences <http://nasetalliance.org/careerprep/index.htm>

Academic Standards for Career Education and Work – Pennsylvania Department of Education <http://bit.ly/2z0MGoN>

PA-ementor – Online mentoring program <https://pa-ementor.org/#1>

ICouldBe.org – Mentoring for the Digital Age <http://icouldbe.org/>

Career One Stop - Career Exploration Tools <http://bit.ly/1FPKRDY>

How Do I Help My Students Plan Their Careers? [www.cultofpedagogy.com/career-resources/](http://www.cultofpedagogy.com/career-resources/)

Corporation for National and Community Service – Mentoring in America: A Summary of New Research [www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/06\\_0503\\_mentoring\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/06_0503_mentoring_factsheet.pdf)

CNN – *The emergence of e-mentoring*

[www.cnn.com/2011/10/25/tech/web/online-mentoring/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/25/tech/web/online-mentoring/index.html)

Helpful Resources to Share With High School Graduates

[www.edutopia.org/blog/helpful-resources-share-high-school-graduates](http://www.edutopia.org/blog/helpful-resources-share-high-school-graduates)

Minnesota State CAREERwise Education – *Explore Careers with Your Teen*

[www.careerwise.mnscu.edu/parents/parentscareers.html](http://www.careerwise.mnscu.edu/parents/parentscareers.html)

Harvard Business Review – *What Parents Should Tell Their Kids About Finding A Career*

<https://hbr.org/2015/05/what-parents-should-tell-their-kids-about-finding-a-career>

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