

# NEWS & VIEWS

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## EMPOWERING **ALL** STUDENTS TO COMMAND THEIR FUTURES THROUGH CAREER EDUCATION



with  
**MICHAEL COFFEY**

Our March Webinar Wednesday was hosted by Michael Coffey from Kentucky School for the Blind. He discussed several practical ways they are implementing Project Discovery to open the door for career opportunities for their students.

### Building Cohesive K-12 Career Readiness Pathways



Project Discovery allows students to scaffold their skill building from Kindergarten all the way through high school! You can easily build a program that starts with elementary students increasing career awareness and ends with high schoolers practicing technical job skills to prepare them for life after graduation or even an adult transition program

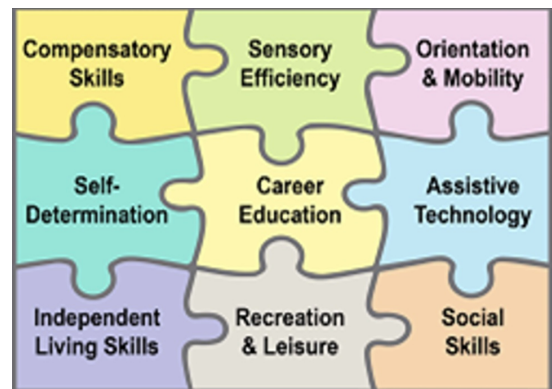
At Kentucky School for the Blind, Michael combines elementary career awareness into library time. This allows for dedicated time to learn about career while working within existing school structures. Simple, ready-to-use lesson plans made staff concerns about ease of use evaporate. They were able to implement shortly after receiving materials.

WATCH THE WEBINAR

## Comprehensive & Customizable Foundation

Kentucky School for the Blind started with our robust foundation and expanded with our customizable content. Teachers were able to easily adapt their materials to best support their students by:

- Creating UEB braille
- Printing materials in large print
- Using audio descriptions of videos
- Focusing on verbal discussion during instruction time.



*Our materials allow you to work through Expanded Core Curriculum for Students with Visual Impairments, seen above.*

*"The unit on physical activity was great. I took the foundation they had and created a more advanced unit and really focused on doing actual physical activity: walking, dance, and exercise videos and [using] the PT equipment."*

## Student Empowerment

“

*I like the diversity of jobs that are shared... I never thought about [tour guide] being a job, but now I think,*

***'I can do that!'***

Student at Kentucky School for the Blind

When learning about career opportunities, students should be shown a large array of career paths. **We want students to have a choice** in what they do with their lives and to find a fulfilling career path that will align with their skills and passion. Students are empowered when they know there are options for their future and feel confident in their skills to carry them to success.

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## Educator Confidence

When you invest in quality, ready-to-use materials, educators have the freedom to focus on meeting the needs of students in real-time. When educators are confident in the materials they are using, their lessons are more effective in the classroom!

“

The life ready lessons took what I had created and been doing to an entirely new level.

Educator at Kentucky School for the Blind





## Get Organized to Maximize Impact

- Designate a spot for materials in the classroom or building.
- Create a library system to "check out" Project Discovery kits to ensure accountability and transparency
- Track which students have completed kits to create a long term track that maximizes career exploration across a variety of disciplines

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## Implement Into Existing Structures

Don't try to create something totally new -look at what systems are already in place and plug in Project Discovery. For example:

- Utilize a rotation with P.E. and music classes so students get a set amount of career-related curriculum time.
- Prepare middle school students for career training if you have a high school CTE or work-based learning program.

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