



# FCCLA and School to Career Priorities

FCCLA in the classroom offers a wealth of opportunities and resources to support school-based learning, work-based learning, and connecting activities for careers. Here are explanations of the ways that FCCLA involvement furthers students' school-to-career transition.

## **Curriculum Integration**

With integrated FCCLA, there is no doubt that chapter activities directly relate to what is being taught in the classroom. The organization is an integral part of the Family and Consumer Sciences program.

## **High-Level Student Performance**

Because in-class FCCLA members are completing "assignments" that will actually be used in their projects, they reach for the highest possible level of quality. When they read *Teen Times* magazine, become involved in STAR Events, and participate in FCCLA meetings beyond the local level, members observe the high levels of performance being achieved by peers. This exposure "raises the bar" for their own expectations.

## **Integrated Academic and Career and Technical Education**

When students identify concerns, set a goal, form a plan, act, and follow up, they cannot help but call on skills and knowledge presented in a wide variety of disciplines. FCCLA in the classroom gives students the opportunity to assimilate and apply what they are learning both within and outside of the Family and Consumer Sciences program.

## **All Aspects of an Industry**

Nothing gives students a more comprehensive understanding of the "real world" than carrying out a project that operates in and impacts that world. Writing letters, making telephone contacts, visiting work places, interacting with people, meeting deadlines, making presentations, and preparing reports all prepare students for the school-to-career transition.

## **Community Partnerships**

FCCLA takes students into the community and brings the community into the classroom. Parents, employers, and other community members connect to in-class FCCLA chapters as speakers, advisory panel members, STAR Events evaluators, site visit hosts, resource providers, and more.

## **Teacher Professional Development**

Many advisers note that both the formal professional development opportunities and the informal connections between FCCLA advisers are important sources of ideas to improve their programs and their teaching.

## **Improved Teaching**

FCCLA advisers frequently testify that integrating FCCLA into their classrooms makes them more student-connected, flexible, on-target teachers.

## **Accountability Issues**

### **Attainment of Academic and Career Skills Proficiencies**

When education becomes "real," students become more motivated to attain success. By offering authentic, student-directed learning experiences, FCCLA in the classroom motivates students to acquire and use new skills.

Integrated FCCLA also provides opportunities for students to demonstrate their mastery of proficiencies, including the Family and Consumer Sciences National Standards. Review these connections in *Implementing FACS National Standards Through FCCLA*.

**Increased Graduation Rates**—Students who connect to school stay in school until they graduate. FCCLA connects students to their school and their Family and Consumer Sciences program of study.

**Increased After-Graduation Placement**—To take their place in any walk of life—education, military, or career—young people need proven skills to take care of themselves, get along with others, solve problems, make decisions, and pursue success. FCCLA gives students a place to develop and practice these skills even before they graduate from high school.

## **FCCLA School-to-Career Tools**

While almost any FCCLA involvement addresses school-to-career priorities, the organization offers the following programs that relate directly.

**Career Connection**—This national program offers teachers and students a variety of materials and suggestions for school-based learning, work-based learning, and connecting activities—"disguised" in user-friendly wording and student-directed projects.

**Leaders at Work**—This national program involves career-oriented students in hands-on leadership projects on the job. Leaders at Work provides guidelines and recognition for students to identify, improve, and evaluate leadership skills for career success.

**Dynamic Leadership**—This national program helps young people learn, practice, and sharpen the basic leadership skills that contribute to personal and career success. Most of the SCANS Foundation Skills—from writing, listening, and speaking to problem solving and self-management—may be addressed with the information, materials, and project ideas included in Dynamic Leadership.

**Power of One**—This national program for individual member action includes the "Working on Working" unit, which many advisers use to introduce the career aspects of FACS courses. Student projects in other units, including "A Better You" and "Take the Lead," can also address school-to-career areas.

**STAR Events**—STAR Events provide a framework and recognition that motivate students to explore, develop, and demonstrate skills for career success. All of the events address SCANS Competencies and SCANS Foundation Skills, and several—including Career Investigation, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood, Entrepreneurship, Fashion Construction, Hospitality, Interior Design, Job Interview, and Teach and Train—focus on specific career-related skills and knowledge.