

Training Makes a Difference

Our trainers have been busy this year providing training all over the state. Many of the people we have trained this year have used MCIS for years and yet almost every one of these MCIS users came away learning something new. On our follow up surveys we asked the following question: What are some specific ways you plan on using the things you learned during training? We think that hearing how others are planning on using MCIS is helpful to other career practitioners. Here are some of their answers:

- I will train the vocational teachers/students to use this tool more in the classroom
- I plan to use MCIS workbooks with the elementary students I work with. Fifth graders may start using the online interface next year.
- We are already using quite a few of these but are planning on implementing these across the curriculum with English teachers. Excited to see how it all comes together and works.
- I want to use the inventories more for students to get a better understanding of their strengths, abilities, and passions.
- Doing more assessments with clients who are ambivalent about what they'd like to do for work.
- I need the students' profiles for their transition IEPs.
- Show students how to look at similar occupations that come up when you look at one of the ones they explore. Use Short Form Interest Profiler to get started. Show certain pertinent sites, such as Physical requirements (especially for voc rehab people,) or Outlook, after people do reality check.
- I am planning on spending direct instruction time with all grades 7 thru 11.
- I plan to use this program to help students make decisions regarding class selections and transition for life after high school.
- Most of our students already have a profile; the whole school plans to integrate MCIS during our advisory period.
- Getting middle school kids thinking about their future goals. Getting elementary students thinking about their interests and goals for the future.
- We are going to first use our Orientation to begin all students on a portfolio. Then as they progress through school we will have them increase their skills and portfolio to help students with all aspects of their college hunt and/or career hunt. We are also excited that for the kids that do not plan to attend college or are SPED this program is linked to Voc. Rehab. and to Job Service. I was also glad to see Job Corp as an option for some careers. GREAT
- Helping Apprentices use MCIS
- I will be more comfortable in setting up student accts. Will be able to review student's profile if they started them elsewhere.
- I plan on using those tests (practice tests) to help prepare students.
- Combining it with their Junior Year Career Report and starting my Jr High Kids with it
- I plan to implement the middle school program with our 7th grade students first and then continue with it each year thereafter. Our 11th grade students also use the program in their English class and we are going to see if we can implement it into a core class for each grade level.
- We have a better understanding of what PEP Talk and MCIS have to offer, and thus the training helped to make our PEP Talk more effective and useful for the students. We will use more of the resources, like Reality Check and the resume builder.
- Incorporating the website into my English lessons in regards to the students Future Stories
- I am an instructional coach at BMS. I believe that this website is very useful for our students. I will encourage the staff to use it. I am sure the AVID classes will use the site in a meaningful way. I would like to see the CT or Advisory classes use it to get the students started in career planning.
- I plan to track my Upward Bound students' progress through their high school career and beyond.
- I will be having students build portfolios - I think in the past they were just logging in and doing their inventories and printing them. We are lucky to be able help our students with all that is available in MCIS

- I plan on directing students with no formal post-graduation plans to the assessments in order to begin the formulating stages of a post-graduation plan. For students who have plans I will encourage them to use the site for resume building and to keep track of higher education plans.
- I initiated a mandatory component of MCIS for my program.
- We plan on looking at the most common careers that our students are interested in when inviting guest speakers or college faculty. We will also use information gleaned from MCIS assessments to help decide what workshops to provide for our students.
- I will be walking my grandson through MCIS - how to look for MT schools offering engineering and the costs of them.
- Work with Student Support Center staff and work study students to promote and assist Helena College utilize the MCIS material.

Whether you have used MCIS for years (90% of attendees currently use MCIS at their site) or are a newbie, take advantage of having one of our trainers come to your site and provide customized MCIS training. We can provide CEUs for educators who attend our training. 90% of attendees stated that the training they received met or exceeded their expectations and that after training 97% felt comfortable using MCIS with their students or clients.

For those individuals that attended training this year we also asked for their feedback on the most beneficial parts of the MCIS training. Some of their responses are listed below.

- I learned a lot of new uses for MCIS at the MS Level
- We learned about the many printed resources available through MCIS and a lot of the online resources.
- Walking through the set up and all the different components. Also realizing that you are all available to complete Professional Development for teachers.
- Ability to customize for our agency.
- This was the first look at MCIS for me. It was impressive with the ease of navigation and the statistical data available.
- Learning about --the Short Form Interest Profiler. --sorting interests by wages, education, or cluster. --the way the find the curriculum for a particular occupation at a college. --hovering instead of clicking. --the Show box and the Return box. --similar occupations shown. --US jobs links. --comparing wages, etc. among states.
- Learning how much of the program I had no knowledge about.
- Both college and career information for our graduates. Fairly easy to navigate.
- Just getting everything up and running so that we could use the system. The kids will love it.
- Every single part, we are excited to expand our knowledge of this program and get kids going. WOW
- Pam is a good trainer. She specifically asked us what we needed, and designed the training around that.
- Learned about the different portals- Staff, student, adviser ETC. Seeing the depth of the research it took to design and maintain the system
- The discussion of the WIOA partners and how MCIS can be shared by all of us.
- Looking at how to drill down into the career fields.
- Learning how much more there is than what we were using
- It was very helpful to have instruction in the many aspects of MCIS, as I was unaware of all of the tools and resources available through the program. I plan to start using the Middle School program with our 7th grade students first.
- I really liked the hands-on part, it really helped us to remember what to do and why we were doing it.
- Too many to list but some of them included Reality Check, Access to Scholarship Applications, the ability to compare colleges and many other tools and options 10/8/2015 9:08 AM 47 Live, person to person, interaction.
- It will be good knowing how to guide the students in planning for their future while giving them motivation for graduating.