

Information Technology

Berks County Workforce Investment Board

Overview

Technology is everywhere! In this episode of Career Gates, you'll find out if a career in this industry could be a perfect fit for you. Join employees from DSS, Godiva Chocolatier and St. Joseph's Medical Center as they share their insight into the industry of information technology.

Discussion/Questions

1. Consider all of the different types of careers or professions in which you may be interested. Now consider how many of these rely on technology in some way. How exactly is technology used on a daily basis in that industry? What does that tell you about the industry of information technology and its future in terms of demand and the effects on the type of work it performs?
2. IT specialists are an integral part of many companies. They work hand-in-hand with the businesses to improve them on a daily basis. Name some specific ways in which an IT specialist could improve a business. You can answer this question about industries in general or you may break into small groups and each focus on a different one.
3. In any technology profession, continued learning is always mentioned as a necessity. Why do you think this industry places such an emphasis and importance on this? How would continued education and training improve your success within a company?

Activities

1. Get started in learning more about this exciting field right now. Check with your guidance counselors about opportunities in school or in the community that offer different technology courses. Find out how you can get involved. Be sure to consider enrollment fees and prerequisites that may be required. Try a variety of courses to see which interests you the most.
2. With the growing demand of this industry as well as the importance it plays in a number of other industries, the salaries and benefits offered can be more than favorable. Conduct some research into a variety of professions within the technology industry. What are the starting salaries? Are there bonuses? What do their basic benefit packages look like? Are there other enticing offers and incentives, such as travel opportunities? What are the daily requirements of this job? Which industries look the most appealing to you? What is it that attracts you to them?
3. Information technology not only requires a lot of technical skills but it also relies heavily on creativity to design new software as well as discover inventive ways to solve problems. Contact a local company that has an extensive information technology center or a local technical school that focuses on information technology. Arrange an interview with several different people within this field. What are some ways in which they demonstrate their creativity on a daily basis? What types of projects do they work on? What are the different skills on which they rely most? Have a series of questions prepared in advance pertaining to their daily work, most noted accomplishments to date, educational background and overall satisfaction with their careers. Share your findings with your classmates. Be sure to write a letter of gratitude for their time and assistance in helping you get closer to discovering a career path for yourself.

Academic Standards

13.1.11.A. Relate careers to individual interests, abilities, and aptitudes.

13.1.11.C. Analyze how the changing roles of individuals in the workplace relate to new opportunities within career choices.

13.3.11.G. Evaluate the impact of lifelong learning on career retention and advancement.

13.2.11.C. Develop and assemble, for career portfolio placement, career acquisition documents, such as, but not limited to: Job application, Letter of appreciation following an interview, Letter of introduction, Postsecondary education/training applications, Request for letter of recommendation, Resume

13.2.11.B. Apply research skills in searching for a job. CareerLinks, Internet (i.e. O*NET), Networking, Newspapers, Professional associations, Resource books (that is *Occupational Outlook Handbook, PA Career Guide*)

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