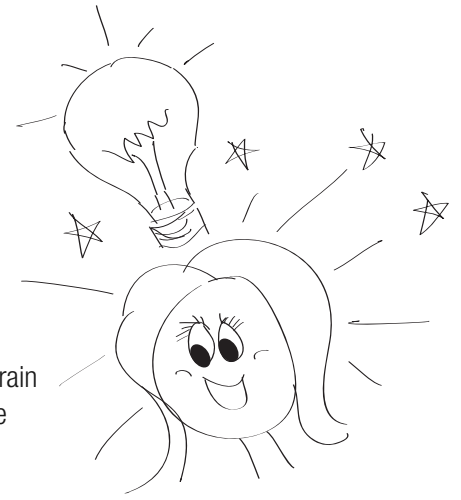


APPENDIX **a**



What are Career Clusters?

Most experts agree that there are more than 20,000 different jobs from which you can choose. Obviously, no one could possibly research every one of those jobs, much less train to do them. Therefore, you need to narrow down your area of exploration to include just those jobs that interest you the most and those that you are capable of learning and doing.

Luckily, these 20,000 jobs can be divided into four groups. These four groups are called **Career Clusters**. Each Career Cluster is made up of jobs that have a few things in common. For example, since the skills and training needed to be an artist and a sign painter are similar, both of these jobs are found in the **Arts and Humanities Career Cluster**. The names of the other three Career Clusters are **Health/Science and Human Services, Business Technology, and Engineering/Industrial**.

Read the following descriptions of the four Career Clusters. As you read, ask yourself how well your traits, skills, abilities, dreams and needs match the jobs in each group.

- ➔ **Arts and Humanities:** If you want to teach, help or entertain people, the Arts and Humanities Career Cluster could be right for you. This Career Cluster contains jobs such as teacher, author, library assistant, lawyer, detective, composer, and advertising agent.
- ➔ **Business Technology:** If you like to work with numbers or distribute messages, the Business Technology Career Cluster could be your best choice. This Career Cluster contains jobs such as accountant, bank teller, public relations specialist, receptionist, insurance adjuster, and printer.
- ➔ **Engineering/Industrial:** If how things work and how they are made interest you, the Engineering/Industrial Cluster could be right for you. This Career Cluster contains jobs like mechanical engineer, carpenter, geologist, automotive technician, construction superintendent, and plumber.
- ➔ **Health/Science and Human Services:** If serving people or keeping people and animals healthy interests you, the Health/Science/Human Services Career Cluster could be your best choice. This Career Cluster contains jobs like school counselor, executive chef, occupational therapist, flight attendant, veterinarian, and nursing aide.

At the end of eighth grade you will be asked to select courses according to one of the four Career Clusters above. You will be asked to choose either a **traditional academic pathway** or a **technical academic pathway**. Students who choose the traditional academic pathway will be prepared to attend a four-year college or university. Those students choosing the technical academic pathway will be prepared for one of the following: two-year community college, trade school, or vocational-technical school.