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SESSION 1: IT IS ALL ABOUT ME! MY FUTURE PLANS START TODAY

ACTIVITY # 4: COLLEGE COSTS/FINANCIAL AID

Opening Discussion:

Going away to college can be exciting because students can live away from home, make new friends and take some amazing courses—remind students, however, that a college degree can give them even more than that. Data show that a college degree correlates with salary ranges. Today, employers use diplomas and degrees more and more to select candidates for jobs and a person with a bachelor's degree will typically earn nearly twice as much per year as a person with a high school diploma. In fact, any education beyond high school (two-year, four-year, military training) will increase your earnings.

A federal government financial aid publication offers two concrete examples:

- A dental assistant, who must have two years of college, will earn enough money to buy groceries for a week after working only one day. A high school graduate who is a salesperson in a department store would have to work three days to buy the same groceries.
- An accountant with a college degree will earn enough money in a year to buy a four-door compact car, but a high school graduate working as an aerobics instructor would need three years of income to buy the same car.

Activity/Handout:

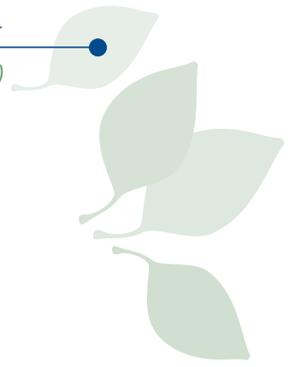
Financial Aid True/False Quiz

Instructions:

1. Distribute the Financial Aid True/False Quiz
2. Give students 5–10 minutes to complete the worksheet
3. Bring the students back together, review the answers, and facilitate a follow up discussion about each question.

Here are the answers:

1. False—generate a discussion about learning, having more job/career options, creating more opportunities for yourself, getting a job that you enjoy that allows you to pay back debt and have the lifestyle you want
2. False
3. True and False—talk about the federal government sites, help at the library and community centers
4. True
5. False—talk about two year schools, certificate programs, and military options
6. False—a college graduate will earn almost twice as much
7. True
8. True and False—colleges may give some full scholarships, but most are partial, and some do not give scholarships at all. Discuss the differences among DI, II, III.
9. False—here is where you can talk about EFC, merit aid, aid packages
10. True—talk about co-op options, for example



FINANCIAL AID TRUE/FALSE QUIZ

1. College is not worth the debt involved. It's better to go directly to work. **T I F**
2. Only A students can go to college and get financial aid. **T I F**
3. Applying for financial aid is very difficult and complicated. **T I F**
4. College can be expensive, but two-thirds of all undergraduate students receive financial aid to help cover college costs. **T I F**
5. To make it in today's world, you must have a four-year degree. **T I F**
6. Over the course of a lifetime, a high school graduate can earn as much as a college graduate. **T I F**
7. The average annual income of a person with a college degree is over \$55,000. **T I F**
8. Colleges give full athletic scholarships to athletes. **T I F**
9. Private colleges are too expensive and you shouldn't apply if you don't have the money. **T I F**
10. Some employers will help you pay for college. **T I F**