Central High School’s Youth Transition Program (YTP) provides a model for CIS use in addressing the career planning requirements of the CAM and high school diploma. Since developing their vocational goal setting process, Central High School’s program has increased its placement rate and student successes. According to Lucille Allen, Career Development Facilitator, and Brett Baldwin, YTP Teacher Coordinator, this process of identifying a student’s vocational goal produces a high level of student awareness of aptitudes, abilities, interests, and strengths.

The process includes utilizing four assessment instruments and exploration tools (Career Occupational Preference System and SKILLS, Occupation Sort, and IDEAS™ in CIS) for looking at a potential YTP referral. The reasons for using multiple self-awareness instruments include:

- Often a student with a disability will get inconsistent results with assessment instruments. Using these four instruments, and sometimes adding the Self-Directed Search, provides information that can be examined for consistent results.
- These tools help demonstrate to OVR (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services) Vocational Counselors that there is reliable information supporting career goals, thus enabling the counselor to write better vocational plans.
- The results from these instruments can assist teachers in writing transition plans and goals for students.
- Students are better able to identify core areas of interest using several types of personal characteristics - their interests, strengths, abilities, and skills.
- Reviewing the results of each instrument with the students also exposes them to a wider variety of new career areas and options.
- With the implementation of new CAM requirements, career development is everyone’s concern. The process used in special education programs for YTP students can be modified for the regular curriculum to help address CAM requirements for all students.
- Realizing the benefits for all students, you may want to adapt Central High School’s process to help your students build their education plans. Having a goal driven education plan motivates students to higher achievement in the classroom. It helps students become more prepared to make appropriate choices and decisions. They will know which courses are required or helpful for meeting their goals. Most of all, researching to develop the plan helps to ensure the students are grounded in real world requirements and expectations.

Central High School’s complete activity and process on Oregon CIS’ Materials web page at http://oregoncis.uoregon.edu/cisonline.html

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CIS Just Keeps Getting Better

Our Fall 2002 products will include numerous enhancements and additions, especially for CIS Online. Here are some of the highlights.

- Four career assessment instruments online. SKILLS and IDEAS, as well as two new assessment instruments, will be delivered as part of CIS Online. (Remember IDEAS is licensed separately, but your IDEAS license will cover desktop and online delivery.)
- Online portfolio. Students and clients will be able to annotate and store career planning information in a personal file.
- New occupational cluster information. Topics include level of education by occupation in cluster, suggested high school courses, and related career paths.
- Expanded financial aid information. By licensing Peterson’s scholarship information and adding our own local and state scholarship data, the number of awards to explore will grow significantly.

Additional online materials. You will be able to download SKILLS Cards and SKILLS Worksheets from our Materials web pages so you can print them when you need them. All support documentation will also be online, including a new CIS Reference Guide.
Recognizing Excellence

The CIS Board announced its awards during the month of April. The recipients of the 2002 awards are: for the Les Adkins Award for Career Guidance Excellence: Diane Parham, Career-Related Learning Coordinator, Colton High School. For the Nancy Hargis Award for Leadership in Career Development: Tim Latta, Quality Assurance (Retired), Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

Diane Parham was nominated by her building principal who writes, "What makes Diane’s program outstanding is Diane and her commitment to the effectiveness and importance of career planning and guidance. She has taken the time to develop a working relationship with teachers around career-related learning and to develop opportunities for students that are relevant and meaningful.” Diane coordinates Colton School District’s K-12 career-related learning program. In the seven years that she has been with the school district, she has facilitated the full integration of career-related learning into the district’s curriculum. Colton became an ODE New Century School three years ago, and Diane has served as site coordinator. Some of her specific accomplishments include:

· A 6-year student plan that includes career exploration and development, academic preparation, extended application, school/community activities, and post secondary plans.
· Career-exploration classes in 9th and 10th grades to support forecasting of CAM plans.
· CIS tools woven through all classroom activities and Career-Related Learning Experiences: Career Trek at the elementary level, CIS Jr at the middle level in an exploration class, and CIS, SKILLS, Job WORKS, and the CRLE Plan Writer at the high school level.

Tim Latta was nominated by the CIS Board. Prior to his retirement last summer, Tim worked for most of his career for the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (previously Vocational Rehabilitation Division). In his role with program quality assurance at the central office, he provided the state leadership and ongoing support for the use of CIS in branch offices throughout the state, organizing product ordering and distribution and coordinating special training opportunities for local office staff. Tim was also very instrumental in the implementation and growth of the Youth Transition Program (YTP) around the state. This innovative approach to serving disabled youth to ensure successful transitions from high school is a hallmark of interagency cooperation in this state. Tim served as his agency’s representative on the CIS Board from 1995 to 2001. He was the CIS Board Chair from 1999 to his retirement in 2001. During that time, he organized the CIS Funding Committee to look at issues related to the fee-based structure for CIS services, focusing on access and equity concerns. His work recently culminated in the presentation of a comprehensive funding study report to the CIS Board and stakeholder agencies. In presenting the award to him, Shannon DeLateur, current CIS Board Chair, noted, “Tim is greatly admired by those who have worked with him for his unassuming, quiet, dependable leadership and vision.”

OACTE Award Recognizes CIS Director

The Oregon Association for Career and Technical Education (OACTE) presented Cheryl Buhl the 2002 Service Award during its annual conference at Sun River in April. This award recognizes her significant contributions to Professional Technical Education in Oregon and nationally. In presenting the award, Denise Gudger, Past President of OACTE and recipient of the 2002 Leadership Award, cited Cheryl’s dedication to excellence and standards in the provision of career information. She also noted her commitment to collaboration and coordination in supporting career development goals of schools, colleges, and agencies, and in developing new and enhanced tools for delivering career guidance to students.

Provide Valuable Guidance, Serve Your Consortium

Have you ever wondered how Oregon CIS makes decisions about new developments and other priority issues? The Oregon CIS Board is a policy body that represents the interests of our consortium members. Each August the Board Nominations Committee solicits names of persons who are interested in serving on the board. This fall, we anticipate at least two vacancies on the twenty member group. If you have an idea or are interested yourself, please let us know. Send a note to the CIS Board Nominations Committee, c/o Oregon CIS, 1244 University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97503-1244 or e-mail to cherylb@oris.uoregon.edu
FROM THE ORDER CORNER

Order Up for Year 2002-03

As the fiscal year winds down, many budget managers have determined their budget priorities for next year. Now is an opportune time for you to order CIS. For many sites, it is very important to have CIS software up and running as soon as possible, and taking care of your order now will help you get your product early in the fall. For order information, look for your 2002-03 CIS Products Catalog in the mail. If you need a catalog or fee information, call us at 800.495.1266.

The CIS 2001-02 software has a timeout date of October 15, 2002. This means that it will no longer be operable after that date. On September 15, the CIS 2002 software will begin displaying a reminder to place your order. After October 1, there will be an additional 15 day grace period. We recommend that your annual order be placed as soon as possible for next year. When you order early, we defer invoicing until delivery in the fall.

Creative Funding for CIS Found at Madras

How does it feel to arrive back at school in the fall, and, in a casual conversation with your principal, learn that funds for your CIS software have been cut from the budget? Ask John Reynolds, Counselor at Madras H-High School, and you will come away believing that such problems are begging for creative action, and solutions are as close as your phone.

Madras Senior H-High School is demographically unique in the state, with a student population that is one-third Native American and one-third Hispanic. A long-time CIS site, the school has been actively pursuing enhancements to its career development program during the past few years.

Last fall they began their first year with ASPIRE, a program in which trained volunteer advisors assist high school counselors provide educational planning support to students with financial, cultural, and academic barriers to education beyond high school. They secured an AmeriCorps volunteer to coordinate their ASPIRE volunteers. They also opened a new career center. They even secured and refurbished two computers for the center - but, as school started, they didn’t have CIS software for the computers. And it wasn’t just the career center that proved to be a problem for John.

Building Your 2002-03 Budget?

With school budgets so tight, the staff, program, and resource cuts have been very deep for many. If CIS is on the target list at your school, consider community fundraising. Over the years, high schools around the state have had success generating local support using several strategies — for example, direct solicitation of businesses, small community grants, or fundraising efforts like spaghetti feeds. There is even a way in CIS for Windows that you can create a “Sponsors” window to acknowledge support. If you are supporting your CIS fees in unusual ways, we would like to learn about your strategy so we can share it with other sites. One important footnote - it is not a good idea to rely on fundraising for an essential service; it can, however, be a way to raise awareness and secure help through a hard time.

CDF Training Offered

Ask most anyone who has completed the Career Development Facilitators (CDF) Training, and there is often a common thread - the 120-hour course was transformational! Chemeketa Community College has announced the CDF class schedule for the cohort that will begin Fall 2002.

- Classes start September 24, 2002, and run Fall, Winter, and Spring terms. They meet on Tuesdays from 3:30-7:30 p.m.
- The tuition is $172/term plus $20 per term for class fees.

Books are additional and vary each term

Darlene Fritz is the instructor. For more information and to request a brochure contact her at 503-399-6981 or e-mail darlene@chemeketa.edu
CIS Regional Workshops for Fall 2002

Planning Soon — Send Us Your Suggestions

Plans will soon be underway for the CIS Fall Workshops in your region. CIS workshops are free annual regional gatherings for career professionals that feature CIS products and career development applications. Fall 2002 workshops will feature the new CIS Reference Guide. You will receive your site's free copy of the CIS Reference Guide along with a guided tour of its contents at the workshop. Attend a CIS workshop to:

- Learn to use new features and enhanced CIS information, tools, and options
- Focus on how to train other staff, volunteers, and student groups using the guide
- Learn how to meet CAM requirements using CIS
- Learn how to address employment and training priorities using CIS
- Share methods and ideas

We are looking for your suggestions and ideas to make a successful workshop. Please send additional topics of interest, desired workshop dates or locations, and information that will make these workshops useful for you to Romella Lee at 541.346.3850, 800.495.1266, or e-mail rlee@orcis.uoregon.edu

Look for final Fall Workshop schedule and registration in August on the CIS web page, http://oregoncis.uoregon.edu/workshops.html