Career Cluster Programs of Study are tools that help educators and students build connections between high school and postsecondary education and into employment. The development of Programs of Study includes reviewing potential availability of careers, potential earning power, and the development of a seamless series of courses to acquire various careers.

Though Perkins IV legislation is a motivator to develop Programs of Study, the benefits for students to be able to see how their high school courses connect to a specific career is a valuable tool. Involving students in the process of developing their own plan, giving them the skills and knowledge to access available resources to alter their plan as their career goals change, is even more valuable.

WITC has created Program of Study templates for all of our associate degree and technical diploma programs to help facilitate the process for high schools. The templates are available on the web at http://www.witc.edu/counselors/pathways.htm.

As Advanced Standing and Transcripted Credit agreements are developed with individual high schools, WITC will highlight the courses in the Programs of Study and post them to the website (http://www.witc.edu/highschool/advanced.htm) to be used as a resource for students, parents, teachers, and counselors. Programs of Study will replace the Curriculum Maps that have been used in the past. A sample is provided in the following pages.

We are pleased that the high schools and technical colleges will be using the same format of Career Cluster Programs of Study. Hopefully this will become a familiar framework for students and staff and a useful tool in planning coursework and career goals.