GREAT CAREERS AND COLLEGE MONEY

Without joining the military

There are many opportunities for training and education that can lead to rewarding, exciting, and well-paid jobs and careers, as well as for money for college or other higher education and training. You don’t have to have a high school diploma or GED for many of these opportunities.

Job Training Opportunities

Job training is offered by many different institutions, such as labor unions, occupational centers, private nonprofit, city, county, state, and federal agencies. Labor unions throughout the country run apprenticeship programs. These are an excellent chance to learn on the job while you train for a wide variety of careers. Apprenticeships usually include a salary and benefits. Other programs can include travel, housing, and even food!

Cities and school districts offer so-called Regional Occupational Programs. Ask your high school counselor for addresses.

Job Corbs offers jobs and training, and even housing and food. Go to http://jobcorps.doleta.gov or call (877) US 2 JOBS.

U.S. Government jobs can be found at www.usajobs.opm.gov.

A large union that offers apprenticeships is the Service Employees International Union (www.seiu.org). And there are many others unions, too. Get a good overview at www.calapprenticeship.org/programs (a California web site with links to unions in most other states).

College and Other Higher Education Money Opportunities

College can be cheaper than you think. A 2-year associate’s degree at a public community college averages around only $1,200, depending on where you live and how many classes are required.

To get money from the government, go to your high school or college counselor and ask for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA).

The Corporation for National Service hire tens of thousands of people a year to do rewarding, interesting work while earning money for college. Find out more at www.nationalservice.org or (800) 942-2677.

There are also private scholarships, grants and loans. Good places to start getting information are www.objector.org and www.college411.org.

Job Placement and Career Planning Opportunities

All kinds of support for making informed career decisions can be found at America’s Career InfoNet website: www.acinet.org/acinet.

In your area, ask a high school counselor for so-called Career One-Stop Centers. The list jobs, offer trainings and provide free internet access.
“War is the enemy of the poor.” Martin Luther King

"Be studious, stay in school and stay away from the military. I mean it."
Marine Staff Sgt. Russell Slay, giving instructions to his 5-year-old son, Walker, in a letter to his family shortly before he was killed. He was one of 12 soldiers from Texas killed in Iraq during the month of November 2004.