Enhancing Skills Experience

Now that you have completed an assessment of your values, skills, interests and personality traits, you should have a better understanding of what you could offer a potential employer. This next phase of Enhancing Skills/Experience is about analyzing what you have learned about yourself and honing and developing your skills. This is imperative as you look to start a new career, change into a new one, or continue to advance within your current field.

As a TC student or alumnus/a, you have a strong academic background including semesters of writing and research experience. These credentials are important; however, in order to be truly successful in your career of choice, you also need hands-on experience and training. There are several ways in which you can get this critical experience:

- **On-the-Job Experience:** doing is learning, which in turn is skill-building. You can get this experience through either an internship or part-time or full-time work related to your field.
- **Volunteering:** this is a great way to gain exposure to any field. If your schedule does not allow much time for ‘gaining experience,’ you can volunteer for an organization based upon your free time.
- **Training:** there are several ways you can receive additional training in your field; consider professional development courses, career training workshops, and/or training classes.

TCCS Resources to Help You Enhance Your Skills and Experience

**TCCS LINK**

Career Development Workshops
Career Panels
Information Sessions
Online Career Development Tools

**Additional Suggestions:**

**Professional Associations** – Almost every field and industry has at least one professional association (i.e. American Educational Research Association, [AERA]). These associations often hold conferences for members to exchange and share information about happenings in the field. An excellent way to stay abreast of what is happening in your field is to become a member of any related associations and attend these conferences.