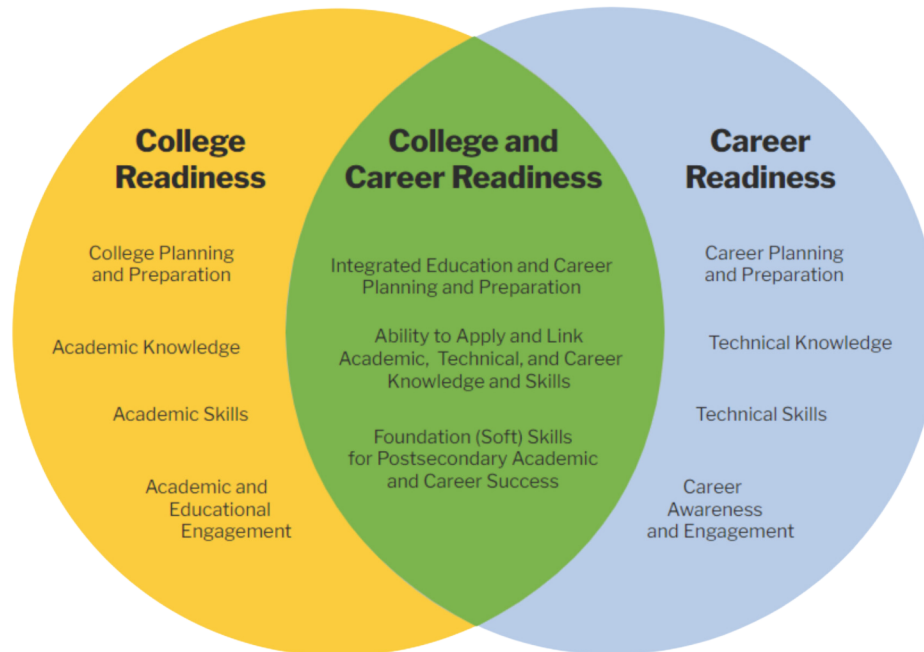


# Building Connections

PREPARING FUTURE-READY GRADUATES

October 2025



## Welcome

### NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT MONTH - NOVEMBER 2025

Welcome to the October 2025 edition of the "Building Connections" newsletter for the 2025-2026 school year!

This monthly resource provides career and college readiness materials for Catholic school leaders, students, educators, and families. This edition's spotlight is on exciting opportunities for National Career Development Month in November 2025.

A big thank you goes to the National Career Development Association (NCDA), the Catholic Business Advisory Council, and the Greater Cincinnati Business Advisory Council (GC BAC) for their assistance with this issue!



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## For Students

### SOFT SKILLS ARE THE NEW HARD SKILLS

National Career Development Month, every November, is a perfect time to focus on career self-discovery, and one critical area to focus on is your resume. The most valuable asset you can highlight, no matter your future path, is your mastery of soft skills. As automation and AI handle more technical and routine tasks, the uniquely human skills are becoming the most essential for success.

For those heading to college, Compunnel (2025) suggests that soft skills are the foundation for managing academic demands, reducing stress, and building professional relationships:

- **Academic Management:** Time management and Organization are vital for balancing coursework, meeting deadlines, and preventing burnout.
- **Collaborative Learning:** Collaboration and Communication are essential for effective team projects, clearly sharing ideas, and resolving conflicts with peers.
- **Core Learning:** Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving are fundamental for analyzing complex information and developing solutions at the heart of college-level study.
- **Networking:** Interpersonal Skills and Emotional Intelligence (EQ) help you build rapport with professors and peers, which is crucial for networking and future opportunities.

In the job market, soft skills are now often valued as much as, or even more than, technical expertise. According to industry leaders like the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), employers prioritize these abilities:

- **Foundational Skills:** Communication and Teamwork are consistently ranked as top employer priorities, driving collaboration and overall productivity.
- **Future-Proofing:** Adaptability, Creativity, and Emotional Intelligence are crucial because they are difficult for machines to replicate, allowing professionals to pivot and innovate during rapid technological change.
- **Leadership & Culture:** Leadership and Conflict Resolution are necessary for inspiring teams, making informed decisions, and guiding an organization. Empathy and Collaboration create a positive and inclusive work environment that boosts morale and retention.

Your hard skills qualify you for a role, but your soft skills make you truly excel.

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## For Educators

**IN A DISRUPTED WORLD OF WORK, EDUCATORS ARE CRUCIAL**

Educators are crucial in a disrupted world of work because they shift from being mere knowledge providers to mentors, facilitators, and career architects. Educators are the primary force for equipping students with the uniquely human, future-proof skills—known as soft skills or durable skills. The role of an educator is vital in three key areas:

- **Cultivating Future-Proof Skills**
  - Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving
  - Adaptability and Creativity
  - Communication and Collaboration
- **Bridging the Gap to the Real World**
  - Career Integration
  - Real-World Experience
  - Digital and AI Literacy
- **Providing Emotional and Social Support**
  - Social-Emotional Learning
  - Mentorship and Guidance
  - Fostering Lifelong Learning

Interested in learning more  
attend the NCDA Career Development  
in a Disrupted World of Work webinar.  
Register [here](#).

## For Community

Business leaders, professionals, and workforce partners who want to directly shape the future regional workforce and support local students should join the GC BAC. Your involvement is guided by three core practices focused on quality and impact.

- **Develop Professional Skills for Future Careers**
  - Bridging the Skills Gap: Helping schools ensure that the skills being taught are relevant to regional economic drivers and industry demands.
- **Coordinate Career Development Experiences**
  - Offer Work-Based Learning: Create environments and opportunities for students to demonstrate and apply their professional skills through internships, job shadowing, volunteer work, business site visits, and pre-apprenticeship programs.
  - Mentor the Next Generation: Use platforms like LinkedUp Connect (a product of the GC BAC) to engage with students, serve as a virtual mentor, and connect them with meaningful career exploration opportunities.
  - Showcase Your Industry: Help inspire and educate students about specific career pathways and the opportunities available within your company or industry.
- **Build Partnerships**
  - Contribute to Regional Growth: Partnering between business and education is seen as key to creating better-prepared high school graduates, which leads to regional economic growth and success.
  - Provide Expertise: For business professionals, it's a chance to provide counsel, serve as a guest speaker, or offer individual consultation to support educational quality and leadership initiatives.

To learn more, please contact Megan Reed at [megan.reed@hcesc.org](mailto:megan.reed@hcesc.org).

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