Family members can provide support to their students as they make career decisions.

**Support and Encouragement**

- Encourage your student to explore new ideas, experiences, and career fields.
- Show tolerance when your student shares ideas and values which are different from your own.
- Really listen to and validate what your student tells you.
- Allow your student to learn from making a poor decision or failing at something.

**Motivation**

- Encourage participation in career development activities without pressuring about timelines or checklists.
- Help your student to set reasonable career goals without insisting that your expectations be met.
- Ask questions that encourage your students to seek career information.

**Information Gathering and Sharing**

- Share the pros and cons of your current occupation.
- Openly discuss the history of your own career path.
- Tell your student about various occupations.
- Help your student connect with appropriate resources that will enhance his/her learning about occupations of interest.

**Personal Insights**

- Help your student to evaluate his/her strengths and weaknesses and discuss how they might relate to various career options.
- Compliment your student’s accomplishments.
- Assist your student with identifying satisfying and well-matched occupations.

**Networking**

- Refer your student to friends/acquaintances who would be willing to discuss their occupations with him/her.
- Assist your student with finding a summer/part-time/volunteer job that will allow him/her to explore a potential career field.
- Connect your student with your personal/professional contacts to find employment after graduation.