**VOCATIONAL SCHOOL 101 WHY CONSIDER VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

**FROM THE DESK OF THE DEAN**

**WHY VOCATIONAL/TRADE SCHOOL**

**TOPIC 1**

A vocational or trade school offers hands-on skills applicable in a work situation while a traditional 4-year college offers relevant knowledge mixed with elective courses. Vocational schools prepare their students for a specific trade, making them better prepared for the workforce.

Trade school is hands-on education. It’s a learning format focused on teaching you a specific set of skills, so there aren’t any general education courses outside of 1-2 that pertain to the career. This dramatically reduces classroom time.

Trade schools have small class sizes, approximately 5-30 students. Small class sizes give you more one-on-one time with the instructor, making it easier to ask questions and receive answers.

Vocational school education gets you into many well-paying careers. In 2019, for example, dental assistants had an average annual pay of **$41,170**, Electricians averaged an annual pay of **$60,370**, and HVAC Technician made an average annual pay of **$51,420**. Each of these trades have enormous growth opportunities. The salaries shown are for the lowest level job title in their industries. There are dozens of industries with hundreds of career roles to choose from; these are just the tip of the iceberg.

Additionally, the trades have many open positions, and since trades deal with essential life elements, they typically come with job stability. Skilled trades such as plumbing, electric, and welding are experiencing shortages of qualified people, creating vacant spots in need of being filled. Healthcare careers are , also a fast-growing occupations.

**IF YOU WORK BEST UTILIZING HANDS AND ENJOY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE FOR A CAREER THEN A VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FITS YOU BEST!**

**TOPIC 1**

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 1**

In order for our team to clearly understand you, the student, it is critical that we get your candid responses to the Values Inventories we have created in Topic 2. In Topic 1 there are No wrong answers. So be frank and honest.

Below is a sample (Personal Inventory) of the questions from the first of three inventories. We would like you to answer in 1-5 sentence answers after downloading the documents from our site. In response, please answer on the templates or on a separate document with the question above your answers.

**Discussion Question 1**

What's something that inspires you and why?

What's your best quality and why?

What's is your greatest strength outside of school and explain why?

What's one of your weaknesses you would like to improve upon and why?

What are you most proud of and why?

Who is your mentor or person you look up to and why?

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 2**

What is your dream job and why?

Would you like to own your own business and why?

Do you perform best as an independent worker or on a small team?

What does a perfect day look like from waking up to bedtime and why?

What is your favorite subject in school and why?

What is your least favorite subject in school and why?

If you could live anywhere in the world as an adult where would that be and why?

What is the best thing that has ever happened to you and why?

What is the worst thing that has ever happened to you and why?

**DISCUSSION QUESTION 3 with the Dean**

**PLEASE SET UP A PHONE CALL OR ZOOM CALL WITH THE DEAN FOR 15-30 MINUTES.**