CRISP: Tiered Approach to Incorporating Career Awareness

From handouts to novel curriculum, there are many ways to increase student career awareness. Here’s a list of methods that you can incorporate within your classes and schools:

1) The first steps, which require no changes to classroom instruction or associated activities
   a) Survey students in order to define their interests and degree of familiarity
   b) Share with students (and their families) a list of fast-growing occupations
   c) Share with students (and their families) a list of STEM-related firms, including their websites and a summary of their business (or what they do)
   d) Meet with the PTO and listen to their feedback, as well as their hopes and dreams (for their sons &/or daughters)

2) The next steps, which require the addition of or changes to existing classroom activities
   a) Teacher discloses how laboratory exercises are consistent with what someone might do as a biological technician, statistician, or chemist, for example
   b) Students complete a laboratory exercise through which they draw conclusions similar to a biomedical engineer or pharmacist, for example
   c) Invite industry representatives to visit your school or classroom to address teachers or students
   d) Students present a STEM-related firm to their peers:
      i) Disclose the company’s name
      ii) Describe what this company does
      iii) Describe one of their products or services in terms of how they make it or what it does
      iv) Describe how this product or service relates to course content
      v) Furnish a related “show-and-tell” picture, device, video, etc.
      vi) Finish within 1-2 minutes

3) Additional steps, which require changes to classroom instruction or the addition of a dedicated class (to existing course offerings). Each of the following will be the addressed at length today.
   a) Develop and introduce a class that is designed to address student awareness of career pathways. Peter Dimoulas will present what we have done at Career HS.
   b) Project-based approach through which students have specific roles in solving a problem or producing a finished product.