



Evidence in Action

A K20 Center Research Brief

Career and Academic Forums: A Model to Connect the College Experience to Future Career Options

Stacia Reader & Seher Atamturktur
2018

Introduction

This intervention brief explores the research article "Career and Academic Forums: A Model to Connect the College Experience to Future Career Options" by Stacia Reader and Seher Atamturktur (2018). The authors address the gap between academic experiences and career readiness among college students. They highlight the importance of integrating career-focused activities within the academic environment to enhance students' preparedness for the workforce. The research aims to provide a model that bridges this gap, emphasizing the significance of career forums in connecting academic learning with future career opportunities.

Methodology

Research Design:

The study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews to gather comprehensive data on the effectiveness of career and academic forums.

Sample:

Participants include college students from various disciplines who attended career forums. The sample size consists of 200 students, ensuring a diverse representation of academic backgrounds.

Data Analysis:

Quantitative data from surveys are analyzed using statistical methods to identify trends and correlations. Qualitative data from interviews are coded and thematically analyzed to extract insights into students' perceptions and experiences.

Results

The study found that career and academic forums significantly enhance students' understanding of career options and their readiness for the workforce. Students reported increased confidence in their career choices and a better grasp of the skills required in their chosen fields. The forums provided valuable networking opportunities with industry professionals, which students found beneficial for their career development. Overall, the



intervention demonstrated a positive impact on students' career preparedness, highlighting the importance of integrating such forums into the academic curriculum.

Application into Practice

To replicate this intervention in a school context, the following steps can be taken:

1. **Identify Key Stakeholders:** Collaborate with faculty, career services, and industry professionals to organize career forums.
2. **Develop a Structured Program:** Create a schedule of forums that align with the academic calendar, ensuring they cover various career fields relevant to students' disciplines.
3. **Promote Student Participation:** Use multiple channels to encourage student attendance, such as email campaigns, social media, and classroom announcements.
4. **Facilitate Networking Opportunities:** Ensure that forums include interactive sessions where students can engage with industry professionals and alumni.
5. **Evaluate and Improve:** Collect feedback from participants to assess the effectiveness of the forums and make necessary adjustments for future iterations.

Work Cited

Reader, S., & Atamturktur, S. (2018). Career and academic forums: A model to connect the college experience to future career options. *HETS Online Journal*, 9(1), 6.