



S.C. Occupational Information System  
www.scois.net

# The Network

Spring/Summer April 2011



## Director's Corner

With only a few weeks of school left, the SCOIS staff would like to thank you for another successful year in Career Development. We enjoy working with all of you again this year. The overall usage of the SCOIS CIS Career System has increased again. This year, we have seen new record levels of Career Portfolio creation and we are pleased with the new focus on career portfolios by our students.

Of the number of students who have career portfolios saved in SCOIS CIS, 88 percent of them are using their State Student ID numbers (also referred to as SUNS numbers) as their username and password for logging into SCOIS. This surely has made it much easier to upload career assessment results into the state data bank.

We are currently piloting the ability to upload SCOIS Career Cluster Assessment results into the Power School Student Record System. So far; so good. We will have more on this in our Fall 2011-2011 newsletter.

Many of you remember that SCOIS has been closely aligned to the Association of Computer-Based Systems for Career Information (ACSCI) for over thirty years. This is the organization that developed strict guidelines and standards for systems that deliver career information. ACSCI has now merged with America's Career Resource Network (ACRNA), formerly NOICC, and the name of the new merged organization is the "Alliance of Career Resource Professionals" (ACRP).

SCOIS has been waiting patiently for this merger to finally take place in order to renew our standards with ACRP. We are pleased to inform you that SCOIS CIS has officially been approved as a Comprehensive System with ACRP. In short this means that the SCOIS Career System adheres to state and federal laws pertaining to confidentiality of student records and to the general authentic means to which we collect, analyze, research and deliver career information. This is great news for SCOIS and the students and adults we serve!

We continue to receive great feedback on the new SCOIS CIS system. It is very user-friendly and students are certainly using the system more. This school year, student usage has increased again over 10 percent from last year. Students are logging in more from home throughout the week and on weekends. This is very good news.

Please remind your students and co-workers that SCOIS staff will be available during the summer break if you need us. Our phone number in Columbia is 1-800-264-9038. Have a great summer!

*Toney L. Farr, Director*

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# SCOIS and WorkSC

For over 30 years SCOIS has been a significant career development resource in South Carolina's public schools. Understanding that career development is a lifelong process, we have now extended this role to become a part of WorkSC, a statewide initiative launched by the South Carolina State Library. WorkSC.org, headed by Jason Broughton, is described as "a comprehensive job seeker and workforce skill building resource for South Carolina's libraries, government agencies, and citizens." We appreciate Mr. Broughton's commitment. Recognizing that the adult job seeker could be seeking employment for the first time, seeking a career change or, in these economic times, be unemployed, WorkSC is intended to meet a variety of needs. SCOIS is proud to be a part of this initiative. Through the link to SCOIS-CIS Adult, users can locate information on such topics as conducting a job search, writing résumés, and being successful in the workplace. SCOIS includes links to training and education resources as well as employment opportunities specific to South Carolina.

Our state's public libraries serve an important role in our communities, and as a part of WorkSC, SCOIS is a significant resource in helping South Carolinians keep up with the evolving workplace. In addition, SCOIS representatives have visited our county libraries and have encouraged them to add CIS-HS to their career resources to assure that career and college information is available to all who rely on South Carolina State libraries for these services. We also encourage school librarians to share their school's site information with their communities as we work together to increase the economic well being of our state and its citizens.

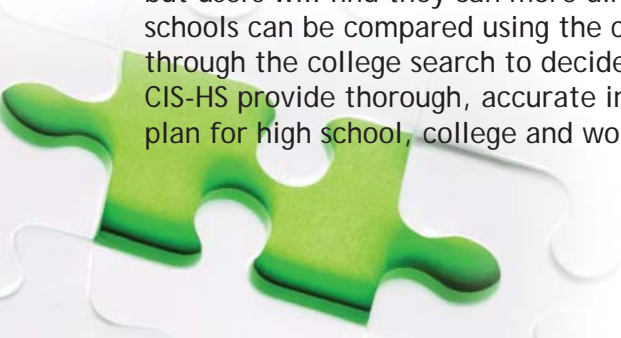
## Doing Research?



# SCOIS CIS can help...

Although SCOIS has several assessments, meeting a variety of needs, students, parents, and educators will find that SCOIS is an exceptional resource for those researching occupations, the job market, colleges, and scholarships. Occupations can be researched based on several criteria, such as common work activities, working conditions, skills need, preparation, wages and employment outlook. In addition the Occupational Supply and Demand, found to the right of the Occupational Titles Index provides detailed information about supply indicators which includes information about the programs of study and training in a designated area, identifying the schools that offer the programs and the number of students completing the program. Under Demand Indicators, the user will find employment projections about specific occupations as well as wage trends. This timely information is specific to the State of South Carolina. Having access to this significant information can help students with the support of their parents and teachers make wiser choices as they move from the information gathering to the decision making phase of career development.

In researching colleges, students and their parents can search criteria, such as major, degree, admission policy, and tuition. Each college in the data base has a link to the colleges own website, but users will find they can more directly research information by the SCOIS criteria. Up to three schools can be compared using the criteria students and parents select as they work their way through the college search to decide which college best meets their needs. SCOIS CIS-JR and SCOIS CIS-HS provide thorough, accurate information which is critical to making wise choices as students plan for high school, college and work life.





Take a look at...

# SCOIS CIS On-line Curriculum

Although SCOIS has several assessment tools available to users, SCOIS-CIS-HS also has many hidden treasures under "Tools for Counselors and Teachers." For example, under Classroom Activities, click on CIS Online Curriculum where you will find 127 lesson plans and three curriculum units that support the integration of CIS into classroom settings. Learning activities can be found based on a curriculum objective which includes the following criteria: Career Plan Level (getting started, looking deeper, next steps), Career Plan Themes (know myself, research options, evaluate options, set goals, make plans), and/or ASCA Domain (academic, career, or personal development). The resulting search provides learning activities supported by PowerPoints and worksheets that are aligned to NCDA and ASCA guidelines as well as Blooms Taxonomy. You can individualize lessons based on yours and your students' needs, giving students the opportunity to apply their career information thus helping them set realistic goals as they plan for the future. Include your teachers in the process. This is also a great resource for them. Sharing CIS Online Curriculum with your teachers will help them generate meaningful subject based lessons. Together you will enable students to make the connection from school to work.

*We would like to say "Thank You" to Carole Dunlap, SCOIS Customer Service Representative for sharing these articles with us!*



## Mark Your Calendar

**2011 Education and Business Summit**

**Theme: "eduCATE SC"**

June 26th through 30th, 2011

Carolina First Center

Greenville, South Carolina

For more information please visit: [www.ebsummit.info](http://www.ebsummit.info)





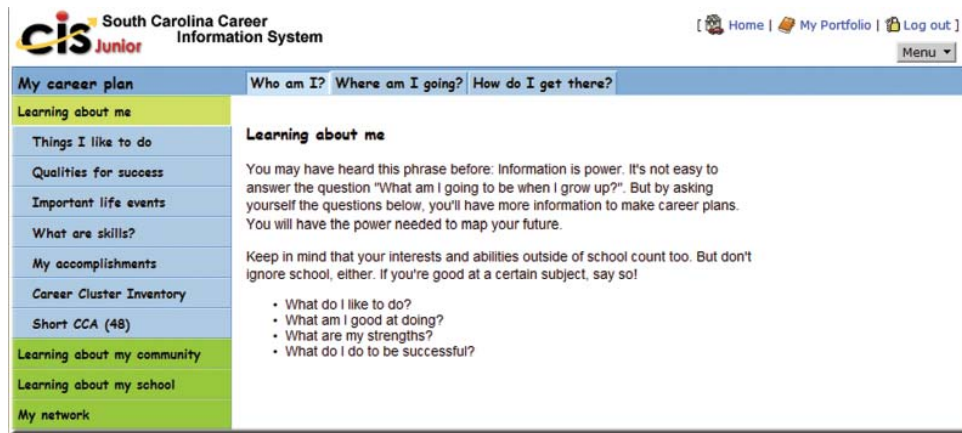
# Middle Schoolers... Needing Some Extra Cash

## Identifying Potential Summer Jobs for Middle School Students

Summers are a great time for middle school students to explore their interests and learn about different jobs. Middle schoolers are often interested in working, not only to make money, but to feel more independent and older. They will learn time management, dependability, people skills, communication and marketing skills, self-confidence and money management.

If you have middle school children, chances are good that they are interested in earning some extra money. But, it is difficult to find a job at such a young age. Below are some steps that will help your children research their interests and learn about jobs in which they might be able to earn some extra money.

Have them visit the South Carolina Occupational Information System (SCOIS) at [www.scois.net](http://www.scois.net). Just click on "CIS Login", enter the username and password that was given to them by their school and they are on their way. Upon visiting the website they can explore the following questions: *Who am I?* *Where am I going?* and *How do I get there?*



*Who am I?*  
Here they can develop "My Career Plan" by exploring Learning about me, Learning about my community and Learning about my school.



**TIP:** Remember a "Portfolio" is an excellent way to keep important information readily available.

## Where am I going?

They can explore Occupations, Career clusters, Workplace, Reality Check, Making decisions, and Action plans.



## How do I get there?

Learn about employability skills, Volunteering, Planning for high school and Planning for college.



Here are some ideas for summer employment that you can talk over with your child: Babysitting, Bicycle Repair, Camp Counselor, Car Washing/Detailing, Computer Tutoring for training (this can be a good resource if you live near a retirement community), DVD Rental (if they family has a large collection), Garage Sales, House Sitting (pick up mail, packages, feed animals, water plants while neighbors are away), Library Pick Up and Return, Pet Sitting and Yard Work (cut grass, rake, plant and water flowers, etc).

Whether at the dinner table or in the car, it's always a good time to talk with your child about school and work.

*Excerpts were taken from an article written by Lisa Fredericksen, <http://careerkids.com>*

*"I use SCOIS Climb with my Elementary students and they love it! It is an excellent resource for career exploration and information. I usually break it up into two classroom guidance lessons because there are so many games, activities, and lots of career information on Climb. I have also used the main SCOIS website for my older middle school aged students and it is very effective. They enjoy finding out the future outlook for jobs as well as requirements and preparation for certain careers. They also love to find out the salaries! The SCOIS website is a wonderful tool for career guidance and counseling. Thanks!"*

*Lisa Ainsworth, Guidance Counselor  
Angel Oak Elementary School  
Johns Island, SC*





# What does **Green** mean?

Decades ago, the idea of a mass-produced electric car seemed like a distant dream. The few being made were not impressive—nothing compared to a zippy sports car. A few scientists and businessmen believed that electric car technology needed to perform as well as gasoline-powered machines to succeed. Tesla Motors was born.

Their efforts resulted in the Tesla Sportster, an all-electric production car. Although not the first production electric car, the two-seater met their goal with a long range and the acceleration and handling of a race car.

There are many new "green" occupations that never existed until recently. But a "green job" isn't always a new type of occupation. Many of the designers and scientists at Tesla had worked on gas-guzzling sports cars. When they applied their expertise to an electric car, their jobs became "green."

## What is **Green**?

There is a lot of emphasis lately on "greening" things: reusable shopping bags, hybrid electric cars, windmills. Our economy is transforming to become sustainable in many ways. At the same time, new jobs are being created that never existed before, and old jobs are being transformed to become "green."

The trend shows no signs of slowing down. According to Time magazine, millions of green jobs will be created over the next decade through government funds and market demand. Green jobs also usually have higher wages than similar "normal" jobs.

Few people agree on the definition of a green job. Some argue that only occupations that directly help the environment, such as windmill technicians, should be labeled green. Others think that any job related to improving our environment counts as a green job. So the factory workers who manufacture windmills would have green occupations as well.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), the "green economy" includes businesses that reduce the use of fossil fuels, decrease pollution, increase energy efficiency, recycle, or create renewable sources of energy. DOL lists three ways different occupations are becoming green:

1. Increased demand for existing occupations. Some, such as conservationists, have been around for decades. People in these occupations aren't learning new skills, because they don't need to. The emphasis on our environment has increased demand for their expertise.
2. New tasks for existing occupations. Examples include electricians who must learn how to install solar panels and plumbers who must become familiar with solar water heaters. The core skills and training are the same, but workers in these occupations must also learn to use new technologies.
3. New and unique occupations. The green economy is creating new jobs that may be related to other occupations or completely unique. For example, windmill technicians borrow skills from several existing occupations, but combine them in a new way.

DOL lists 215 occupations that are green in at least one of these three ways. Demand for more workers in these occupations increases every year, and there are more occupations that have yet to be listed.



# Green jobs and you



People enter into green jobs for a variety of reasons. Many want to improve the environment through their work, and some are after the higher wages green jobs offer. Most are probably drawn by a combination of the two.

If you are interested in a green job, but can't find any that fit your interests, remember the story of Tesla Motors. They were sports car designers and engineers who wanted to improve the environment. They found a way by designing energy-efficient vehicles. Whatever your interests, there is probably a green job to match them. If there isn't, you may just have to create a new green job.

## Jobs for the future

In the early 1950s, there was only one computer, and it was nearly the size of a house. Now a cell phone has more computing power, fits in your pocket, and nearly everyone has one. Green technology and green jobs are on a similar course.

Today, electric cars are innovative, new, and exciting. A decade from now, we may all be driving them and not even think twice about it. Over time, new green technologies become the standard. Employees who have a firm grounding in green technology and practices now will be set for a strong career in the future.

Most

GREEN  
JOBS

belong to one  
of these  
categories:

### Technology

- Environmental Tech & Services
- Manufacturing for green industries
- Storage (batteries, fuel cells)
- Composites

### Transportation

- Public Transit
- Electric Vehicles
- Alternative Fuels
- Emissions Testing

### Natural Resources

- Sustainable Forestry & Agriculture
- Sustainable Food Production
- Recycling Technology

### Energy

- Energy Efficiency
- Solar Energy
- Wind Energy
- Bio Energy
- Geothermal Energy
- Wave Energy
- Smart Grid Technology

### Construction

- Sustainable Building & Development
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)



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### The Network

*The Network* newsletter is published during the year to encourage communication between the South Carolina Occupational Information System (SCOIS) and its users. Your comments and questions are welcome.

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