**Exploring Emerging Career Trends**

Topic: *Exploring Emerging Career Trends*

**Prerequisite:** Student exploration of skills, interests, and potential careers of interest.

**Audience:** Students

**Activity Goal**

Deepen students’ understanding of emerging trends related to industries of interest

**Background Knowledge for the Presenter**

* It will be helpful to go through the various Labor Market resources and Xello resources provide as part of the worksheet. Depending on your students’ age and previous career exploration, you may choose to limit choices they have around which Labor Market resources to explore.
* As students complete their Labor Market exploration, you may need to assist them in picking the best Labor Market resource for their needs, selecting careers of interest, or conducting Xello research.

**Materials Needed**

* [Handout Labor Market One-Pager](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cNw5osFm0_lC6zKneZjSo3ebJO3MUVr7-E9dT4MtBIw/edit)
* [Emerging Trends section of the DPI LMI website](https://dpi.wi.gov/cte/labor-market-information/emerging-trendshttps:/dpi.wi.gov/cte/labor-market-information/emerging-trends)
* [Understanding Wisconsin’s Job Outlook Page 7](https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/wits_info/downloads/projections/understanding-wisconsin-job-outlook.pdf)

**Time Needed:** 60 minutes

**Procedures**

1. Explain to students that careers will change in the future. Researchers predict these emerging career trends, both in terms of skills needed and how the industry will run. It may be helpful to share key information and definitions from the Handout Labor Market One-Pager before digging deeper into the lesson. Also share the outcome for the lesson. Discuss as a class what they know about how careers may have already changed since their parents’ childhoods? (Ideas to consider are role of technology, extinct or growing careers, skills needed etc.)
2. As a class check out Understanding Wisconsin’s Job Outlook Page 7. This shows the skills that are projected to be associated with most new employment opportunities in 2026. Discuss as a class what surprises them about those skills? What already confirms their thinking or seems similar to the skills needed today?
3. Now it’s time to explore emerging career trends by industry. Have students self-select a group from the following list or you could select the groups for them
   1. Agriculture and Natural Resources
   2. Business and Information Technology
   3. Family and Consumer Science
   4. Health Science
   5. Marketing
   6. Technology and Engineering

The goal is that there are groups of at least two to five students in each group, and that the students in the group are interested in the industry they are selected to research. Each small group should write a prediction for an emerging trend related to their industry. They should also predict skills that will be important in the career cluster in the future.

1. Each small group will then do a close read of an article or two from their section of the DPI Labor Market Information: Emerging Trends website.
2. As they read, they should individually identify

* How will jobs be different in the future than they are today?
* What skills will they need to be successful in jobs of the future?
* What can they do now to start gaining those skills as a part of their academic and career plan?

Then they should prepare to share out the above points with the larger group.