

30 Years of Changing Attitudes, Changing Lives...

In four words, that sums up the goal of the *Career Choices* curriculum. What began as a passion for author Mindy Bingham has grown into a mission for the 40+ individuals who write, administer, support, and train in this curriculum.

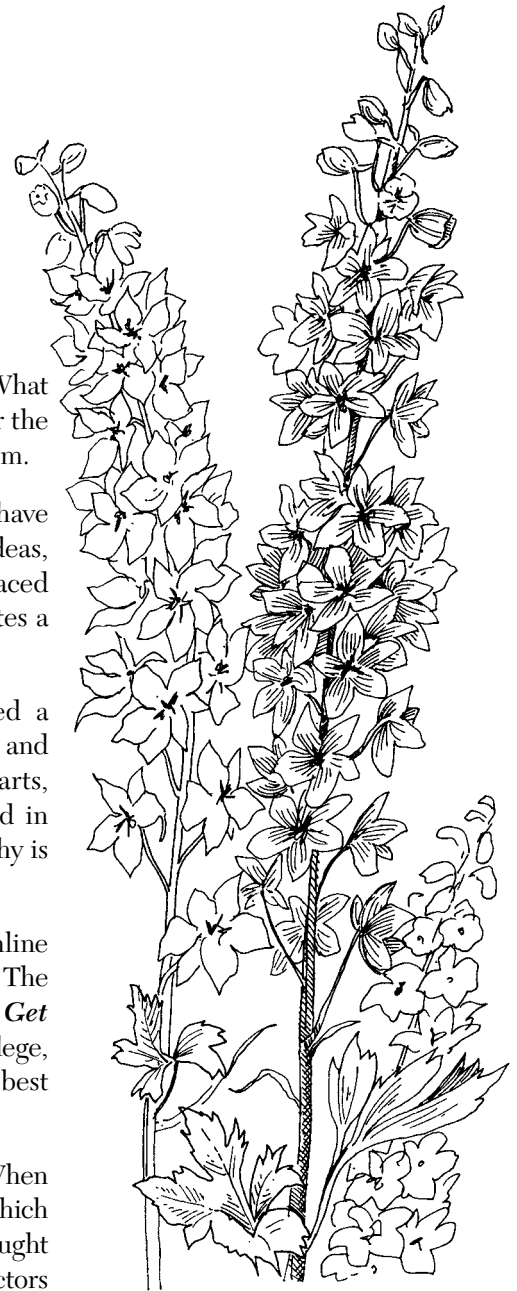
To date, over 6,000 schools and programs with nearly two million students have used *Career Choices*. Throughout this manual, you'll find the thoughts, ideas, and creative energies of some of the hundreds of educators who have embraced and championed the concept that every 8th or 9th grade student completes a comprehensive guidance course that culminates in a 10-year plan.

When *Career Choices* was first published in 1990, it was considered a cutting edge curriculum because it integrated the theme of career, life, and educational planning into the traditional subjects of English/language arts, math, and social studies. Using an interdisciplinary approach grounded in real-life activities, students found the answer to the age-old question: "Why is education important?"

Now with the addition of technology-based enhancements and extensive online professional development, as well as public/private partnerships with The George Washington University's Freshman Transition Initiative and the *Get Focused...Stay Focused!*[®] program developed at Santa Barbara City College, Academic Innovations continues to provide educators with the latest and best strategies for motivating and educating our young people.

As you'll notice, this new edition of the *Instructor's Guide* is longer. When we studied our metrics, we found that the former online version, which included many resources not in the guide, was not used. So we've brought those resources back into the print version. Because our college instructors also wanted a print version, you'll find all the lessons for both the high school version, *Career Choices*, and the college edition, *Career Choices and Changes*. The new sections (15 & 17) provide resources for the School-Wide Initiative. Whether your program is based on the Freshman Transition Initiative or the *Get Focused...Stay Focused!*[®] program model, you'll have all the resources necessary for planning your efforts. And throughout this guide, you'll find a plethora of new online professional development tools, available 24/7, for everyone on your campus, making the launch of your course or your program easy and effective.

But don't worry, you don't have to read all of this. As a manual, it's meant as a reference book to meet the needs of a broad spectrum of users.



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