National Association of Colleges and Employers

A CAREER PLANNING COURSE FOR PARENTS

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP x Don't insist upon a decision about a major or possible career choice immediately. If you sense that
 ǯ ecision is a barrier to positive progress, urge that he or she look for assistance in
the career center. Students often have difficulty making a "final" choice because they fear they may
make a wrong choice and close off options x

x On-campus interviewing opportunities, and, x Alumni career consultant or mentor programs. x Don't nag your child about not having a job yet. This will often have the reverse effect. Use positive
reinforcement. x O            ǯ   
and/or job listings that may be of interest. Listen for indications from your child that you are
getting carried awayȄand back off. x Don't call potential employers to intervene for your child. Contact with potential employers is the
candidate's responsibility. x Be prepared to support your child through the ups and downs of the job and graduate school
search. It can be a bumpy roadȄnot every desired job or graduate school acceptance will come
through. Your student will need reassurance that for every door that closes, another opens.
FINAL THOUGHTS
The college years are a time of exploration, experimentation, and learning on many levels for students
and their parents! Some student challenges may seem more positive than others, but all contribute to the
educational outcomes of the college or university experience. Throughout these years, students are developing a "record of achievement" that will be evaluated by
employers and graduate schools as they move beyond college. There are several pieces of this record: