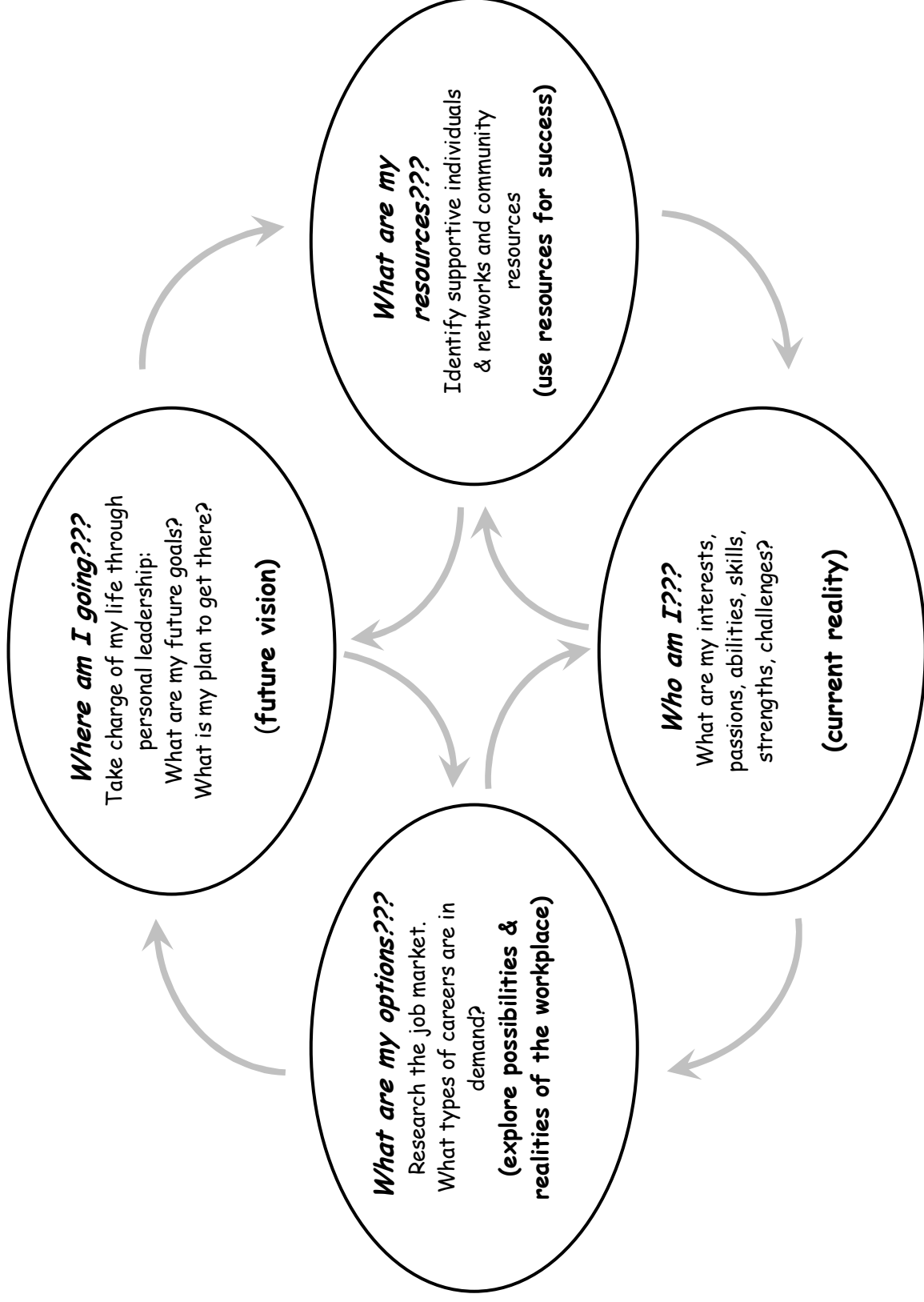


The Career Development Process



Don't ask me what I want to be . . . until I've had a chance to explore the possibilities . . .

Using the Guideposts for Success in the Career Development Process

THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROCESS			
WHO AM I?	WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?	WHERE AM I GOING?	WHAT ARE MY RESOURCES?
<p>Get to know myself: What are my interests, passions, strengths, challenges? Identify aptitudes and natural abilities. What do I have to offer my community? What soft skills do I need? How can I learn them?</p>	<p>Explore career opportunities: Expand options and explore possibilities through hands-on experiences like service projects and entrepreneurship. Research the job market. What types of careers are in demand? What careers will support my financial needs?</p>	<p>Take charge of my life through personal leadership: What are my future goals? What is my plan to get there? What hard (technical) skills do I need? What are my educational needs? Develop leadership, self-advocacy, goal-setting, and planning skills.</p>	<p>Get the help I need: Do I have a network of support? How do I create one? What are the resources in my community that could help me reach my goals (education, technical training, and employment assistance)? How do I connect?</p>
GUIDEPOSTS FOR SUCCESS: RESEARCH-BASED ACTIVITIES THAT INCREASE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH			
PREPARATORY EXPERIENCES	WORK-BASED EXPERIENCES	LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	CONNECTING ACTIVITIES
<p>LEARNING</p> <p>Career assessment Formal and informal, hands-on and activity-based, Internet-based, computer software</p> <p>Opportunity awareness Career research, speakers, informational interviews, community mapping</p> <p>Work readiness skills Soft skills development, computer competency, job search skills, interviewing</p>	<p>WORKING</p> <p>Industry site visits and tours</p> <p>Job shadowing Individual or groups</p> <p>Internships Paid or unpaid</p> <p>Entrepreneurship School-based enterprise, micro-enterprise, small business development, small business information centers, entrepreneurial resources</p>	<p>THRIVING & LEADING</p> <p>Supportive adults Formal and informal, role models, mentors, relatives, youth organization leaders</p> <p>Peer mentors Supportive peer group, pen pal, peer role models, peer mediation</p> <p>Opportunities for personal growth Self-determination, self-advocacy, conflict resolution, goal setting, planning, disability awareness</p> <p>Leadership opportunities Leadership training and experiences, service learning, community involvement</p>	<p>CONNECTING</p> <p>Academic tutoring Peer tutors, community organizations, adult, individual, group</p> <p>Mentoring Adult, individual, group, Ementoring</p> <p>Assistive technology Consultation, awareness, devices</p> <p>Transportation Driver's education, mobility training, public transportation, and alternatives</p> <p>Workforce training and postsecondary education Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Michigan Works!, WIA Youth Employment Programs, College visits and disability services</p>
Family Involvement & Supports			
<p>Families as a part of a supportive network, parental involvement in youth-focused educational and career planning, exposure to opportunities and experiences that broaden youth's perspective, basic needs are met, supportive network is in place</p>			
Foundational: Youth Involvement = Youth as Partners			

Call Ron Irvine, MiConnections of Kent County, for more info: 616.301.6198

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