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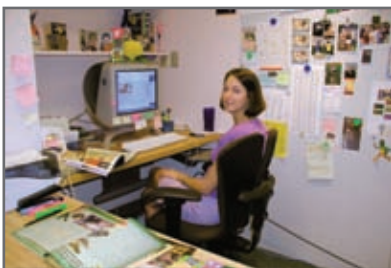
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# Introduction

“What do you want to do with your life?” “What do you want to be when you grow up?” How many times have you already heard these questions? Do you have an answer yet? Do you know there really is no right answer? The only person who can answer those questions is YOU! Who are you? Where are you going? What’s important to you? When will something happen? Your answers to these questions will determine much of your life’s direction. This textbook, *Developing Career and Living Skills*, gives you an opportunity to look into yourself and answer those questions in ways that will enable you to achieve your highest dreams.

## Unit 1: Exploring Career Options

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*

—Robert Frost

*“The Road Not Taken”*

How will you know which road is best for you? How can a road map help you? In this unit, you define who you are, what is important to you, where you are going, and the tools to help you along your chosen path.

## Unit 2: Becoming Familiar with the Workplace

*“What’s really important in life? Sitting on a beach? Looking at television eight hours a day? I think we have to appreciate that we’re alive for only a limited period of time, and we’ll spend most of our lives working. That being the case, I believe one of the most important priorities is to do whatever we do as well as we can. We should take pride in that.”*

—Victor Kiam

Do you understand what “work” is? What is a workplace? What does it take to be successful in today’s workplace? When pursuing your interests and careers, you achieve more when you are familiar with the workplace, you know what is expected of you, and you know what to expect. The chapters in this unit guide you in taking your place in the world of work.

## Unit 3: Accepting Responsibility for Your Life

*“I’ve come to believe that each of us has a personal calling that’s as unique as a fingerprint—and that the best way to succeed is to discover what you love and then find a way to offer it to others in the form of service, working hard, and also allowing the energy of the universe to lead you.”*

—Oprah Winfrey

What are your responsibilities now? What will your responsibilities be in the future? How can you successfully handle all those different roles? Your careers and workplaces are only part of your life. Your role in community and family life also makes up a major part of who you become. Your attitude toward all these responsibilities quite often determines the quality of your life. Use the chapters in this unit to think about your life in the future. It may seem far away right now, but you are preparing for it today.