

# TEXASgenuine.org helps match students with careers and training

**Question:** My son is a sophomore in high school, and he still is not sure what he wants to do “when he grows up.” He doesn’t really want to go off to a university, but he’s not sure what other options are out there. Is there a good resource he can use to explore potential career options?

**Answer:** There certainly is! [TEXASgenuine.org](http://TEXASgenuine.org) is a free resource that high school counselors and college advisors are using to showcase the value of career and technical education and to help students explore career options. The website makes it easy for students to find information about potential careers, plus related education and training offered at public community and technical colleges throughout the state.

The website’s “Find Your Future” career assessment takes less than 10 minutes to complete. Based on the responses, students can have their top three Career Clusters® of interest emailed to them. Students can then use the website to explore potential careers that fall within each of those categories, along with salary information – an important factor to consider when planning for the future.

Victoria College was awarded a 2014-15 Perkins State Leadership grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to manage the statewide TEXASgenuine project. The initiative addresses a recent recommendation coming from the Texas Comptroller’s office to help the Texas workforce continue to enjoy prosperity.

You may know that Texas leads the nation in the creation of good jobs. That’s the good news. But many of the state’s employers say they cannot find workers with the skills they need. This skills gap points to the need for Texas to expand and diversify its educational and training pathways, according to a report released last July by former Texas Comptroller Susan Combs.

The report, titled “Workforce — Capitalizing on Our Human Assets,” says that the state’s under-18 population grew by more than 979,000 between 2000 and 2010, or 6.5 times faster than the U.S. average. With these promising numbers, Texas should have a strong workforce if young workers receive proper training and education.

Among five recommendations, the Comptroller’s office suggests that Texas needs to do a better job of broadcasting the positive outcomes of career and technical education. That’s where TEXASgenuine.org can help match you with the right career and the training it takes to get there.

*Do you have a question about TEXASgenuine? Contact TEXASgenuine Project Manager Shannon Swor at (361) 573-3291 ext. 3220 or [Shannon.Swor@VictoriaCollege.edu](mailto:Shannon.Swor@VictoriaCollege.edu).*