Sonia Curry TESC MPA Program Application Public Policy Memo March 16, 2023

In my line of work today, I find that there is a large number of individuals who realize that the career they spent so much of their time and energy in is not truly what they want to do with the rest of their lives. This is what starts the burnout process and creates an atmosphere of contempt in the workplace. When one feels contempt towards anything, it creates a disconnect between them. In order to do the best work we are capable of doing, we need to have some passion towards the field we are working in; some type of connection with the work. There must be a rewarding factor in the work we do, otherwise why are we doing it? How can we best set up our future generations with the best possible route for not only a successful life, but a fulfilling one at that? We can do this by preparing them for the things we weren't prepared for ourselves! In doing this, we are creating an environment where people are happy, in some capacity, to do the work they do. They feel satisfied in their work and in their lives.

College readiness is something that has taken off in high schools and, in some cases, is brought up in middle schools as well. I think it is important to start conversations like this earlier in our educational careers, when our minds are more connected to who we are and not who we want to fit in with. College readiness is an important and hot topic to discuss, especially in these age groups, but career preparation is just as, if not more, important. We spend only a few years of our lives in college and working through that stage of our lives. When it comes to our careers, that is where we spend majority of our lives, and it is important that we invest ourselves in careers that reflect our own likeness. This is why Career Preparation should be required all throughout our educational journey.