

Preparing Students for What's Next in Work

FAMILY FEATURES

Automation, AI and societal economic changes are affecting the workforce and making a significant impact on the employment prospects of future generations.

More than one-third of today's college graduates are "underemployed," meaning they work jobs that don't require a college degree and may pay less than a living wage, according to data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

At the same time, a World Economic Forum report explored how advances in AI are threatening to negatively impact access to entry-level and even mid-level jobs for millions of Americans.

Looking ahead, research by Georgetown University indicates that by 2031, 70% of jobs will require education or training beyond high school. However, data from the National Center for Education Statistics indicate only one-third of high school graduates go on to complete a college

degree with many of those being in fields that are not in high-earning, high-growth professions.

These challenges are not lost on today's students. In a survey by Junior Achievement and Citizens, 57% of teens reported AI has negatively impacted their career outlook, raising concerns about job replacement and the need for new skills. What's more, a strong majority (87%) expect to earn extra income through side hustles, gig work or social media content creation.

"To put students on the path toward greater earning potential and economic mobility in a rapidly changing economy, students need proactive education and exposure to transferable skills and competencies, such as creative and critical thinking, financial literacy, problem-solving, collaboration and career planning," said Jack Harris, CEO, Junior Achievement.

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