During the summer of 2002, PathFinder assisted the Bridge program at UM-St. Louis with its goals of helping area students achieve their academic potential. Now in its 16th year, Bridge is an initiative of the Office of Pre-Collegiate Programs. Its goals are to:

- Increase the number of students who complete high school and go to college;
- Increase the number prepared and motivated to pursue careers in math, science or technology;
- Support math, science and English instruction in participating schools.

Students utilized PathFinder’s “Portfolio” system to create online resumes and portfolios, conduct web searches for careers and colleges/universities of interest, post progress reports, complete sample ACT/SAT exams, and much more. Dr. Gladys Smith, Director of the program, and Bridge Coordinator Kim Merrill utilized PathFinder’s “Opportunity” system to identify, request and schedule field trips to area workplaces, including Logan College of Chiropractic and Stepstone Productions (for more, see page 2).

Dr. Gladys Smith: “I am thrilled that the Bridge program summer employment students had a chance to explore career opportunities through PathFinder. We involve high school students as early as possible in planning their career direction and PathFinder provides the tools to get students involved in developing career and college plans, and the students loved working with the computers. PathFinder is a major College of Education resource that helps create a “bridge” to the future.”

Bridge features The Saturday Academy (emphasizing math and science instruction, career development and college planning); Math and Science Clubs (allowing students to conduct research, participate in competitions, and meet professionals in these fields); a Summer Math and Science Academy (offering math and science classes for 9th and 10th grade students); the CPI Summer Employment Program (providing on-campus paid internships for students who attend the Summer Math and Science Academy); and Dual Enrollment (allowing 11th and 12th grade students to take college courses for college credit). Bridge scholarships include Margaret Bush Wilson for students with a 2.5 GPA or higher who are interested in math, science or technology; and the Monsanto Scholarship, for Bridge students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

PathFinder Helps Create “Bridge” for Area High School Students

Here’s what a few of these Bridge-Summer 2002 students said about their experience with PathFinder:

Kehinde Aderibigbe (McCluer Sr. HS): …the PathFinder program is great! I’m enjoying my time in the classroom and working on the computer. I like the program that is connected with all the links with all the colleges in the United States… This program can open up a lot of opportunities for me…

Chandra McCollough (Vashon HS): Using PathFinder was a good experience for me because you can put very important information that will help you along the way. I will recommend this program to all of my friends…. I think everyone should use PathFinder. It is perfect for every age. I love using PathFinder.

Trumaine Epps (Normandy Senior HS): I really like doing…PathFinder…because it gave me a chance to put my name out in the college world. PathFinder is a good website because it is easy to do and it is a lot of fun to do. I like doing…PathFinder because I’ve got an understanding of what I want to be in my life.

Nicholas Ferrer (foreground), Hazelwood Ctrl junior and RCEW intern, explores colleges and careers on PathFinder.

Others pictured (L to R) are: Danielle Anderson (Bridge staff), Justin Lay, Keona Johnson, Chandra McCollough, Sherika Hutchinson, and Sumner Butler.
Good News! We’re happy to announce that there will be no fee to our PathFinder affiliates for the duration of the 2002-2003 school year. Though the initial school-to-work grant has expired, we have been able to find sufficient funding from another grant to cover the annual $500 server fee for all PathFinder-affiliated agencies again this year. Sometime in May, we will send invoices for the 2003-2004 fee of $500, payable July 1, 2003. Be sure to include this amount in your ’03-’04 budgets!

Additional Resources: We’ve added over 450 new weblinks to the Additional Resources area of PathFinder—including 74 of the “Top Learning Links” in the country. You’ll find homework help, lesson plans, professional development information, job listings, career advice (including technical and alternative career paths), skill and interest assessments, college planning and financial aid information—and MUCH MORE! We’ve included something for students, parents, teachers, administrators, employers, jobseekers and almost everyone. To check it out for yourself, go to the PathFinder site http://stlpathfinder.communityos.org click “Additional Resources,” and follow the link.

New School Affiliates: Our network continues to grow! Welcome to these new additions to our PathFinder family:

- Bayless High School
- Brentwood High School
- GEAR-UP St. Louis
- Seckman High School
- Soldan International Studies High School

For a list of all PathFinder schools: Go to the PathFinder site: http://stlpathfinder.communityos.org. Click “Enter PathFinder,” click “Community Participants,” click the blue dot to “Search/School Profiles,” then click “Search” to see the entire list of current affiliates.

To join the PathFinder Network: If your school or youth organization is in our service area (St. Louis City, St. Louis County; St. Charles, Jefferson, Franklin and Clinton counties in Missouri; parts of the Illinois counties of St. Clair and Madison), contact us about getting your own site license. We serve primarily middle and high schools, youth agencies, and community colleges providing career and education guidance to their students or clients. (Private and parochial organizations may participate, as well!) To learn more, call Rosanne at 314-516-4378 or email us at pathfinder@umsl.edu.

Special Acknowledgements: The Bridge program and the St. Louis PathFinder Network are very grateful to our hosts and guides at Logan College of Chiropractic and Stepstone Productions for generously sharing their workplaces with our students. The students returned informed and enthused about education and career choices they had never before considered. (See a collage of pictures from these events on the next two pages.) The following sketches provide more information about two of our Summer 2002 employer hosts:

Established in 1935, Logan College of Chiropractic offers its students an excellent curriculum taught by highly qualified faculty, and a state of the art educational/learning environment on a beautiful 112-acre wooded, hilltop campus in Chesterfield, MO. The Mission of Logan College of Chiropractic is to prepare professionally competent, successful, practicing doctors of chiropractic by setting the standard for teaching and learning. With about 7,000 alumni throughout the world, Logan College is accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education and the North Central Association of Colleges. Logan, a non-profit institution, is led by its President, Dr. George Goodman, and a 15-member Board of Trustees. Student interns from Logan College, under the guidance of licensed doctors of chiropractic, provide health care for patients at the Chesterfield campus, as well as 6 off-campus satellite health centers, including 3 area Salvation Army facilities.

Stepstone Productions began to take shape in 1987 along the Amazon River in Brazil. While shooting on location, Chuck Neff witnessed the devastating poverty and disease of the people and promised himself that he would make a difference. In 1992, he launched Stepstone Productions, an award-winning film and video production company with a mission to create high-quality programs and marketing tools for the not-for-profit and commercial sectors. In addition, the agency provides job training, professional experience, and college assistance to minorities and disadvantaged youth through its training arm, Stepstone Institute. In July 2001, with help from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training, Stepstone Institute launched a nationally recognized video production apprenticeship program—the first of its kind in the U.S. The first four apprentices graduated from the program in September 2002.
As the Bridge students arrive at Logan, they are greeted in Alumni Hall by their hosts…

Rob Smith, Rudi Vrugtman, Dr. Peter Schoeb, Dr. Pam Wakefield, Marion Gaultt, Stacy Roberts and Steve Dingus. While on campus, the students visited a state-of-the-art classroom, watched procedures in the anatomy lab, observed a chiropractic adjustment in the campus clinic, talked with the college sports director, and spent time in the weight room and gymnasium. They also enjoyed refreshments in the faculty lounge while debriefing with their tour guides before boarding the bus for the return trip.
At Stepstone Productions, a St. Louis-based not-for-profit video production company, Director Declan Duffy talked about careers in video production. Bridge students also learned about a unique U.S. Department of Labor apprenticeship program and college tuition assistance offered through Stepstone Institute, the company’s training arm.

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It’s not too early to begin preparing for Groundhog Job Shadow Day 2003. The year-long Job Shadowing initiative will be kicked off on Friday, January 31, 2003.

Why, January 31? Groundhog Day, February 2, falls on Sunday and the consensus was to have the kick-off on the Friday, January 31st rather than Monday, February 3rd. Of course, what matters most is that you choose a day that is convenient for your employers, employees, students and school or youth organization. Remember that the National Job Shadowing Initiative is year-long project, and January 31st is just the kick-off date.

Materials have been updated and the Job Shadowing “How to Guide” has been reduced from 64 to 48 pages. Also, for the first time, the Guide will be downloadable by section directly from www.jobshadow.org. The online version was scheduled for release at the end of August and the print version should be available in September. The Brochure-Poster also was scheduled to be available online in late August, with a print version to follow.

In the past, DESE has printed hard copies of the “Save the Date” postcard. This year, however, two forms will be available online. Version One is an electronic postcard that can be sent via email to as many people as you wish. For those who prefer a hard copy, Version Two will be fully downloadable and printable, and will include printer’s specs.

Finally, the online training has been updated, as well. (see http://www.streampipe.com/rw/jobshadow1811 for the streamed video). The training includes eight modules: How Training Works, Getting Started, Organizing Community, Liability, Preparing Students, A Day on the Job, Resources/Tools and Media/Awareness. Hopefully, these new aids will make this year’s job shadowing planning and coordination easier than ever.

Begin now to think JOB SHADOWING 2003! Contact Rosanne at 516-4378 (email: pathfinder@umsl.edu) to find out how PathFinder can help organize your job shadowing and other career exploration activities.
The Problem: Student Scholarship
One of the biggest challenges of serving as staff for the St. Louis PathFinder Network is training educators, counselors, and students to use ALL of the many remarkable and unique tools available on PathFinder.

We recently had the privilege of participating in an A+ advisory board meeting at one of our local high schools. We listened with interest at the discussion about some of the barriers to student scholarship. Chief among their concerns, the group cited:
- Poor student attendance
- Failure to submit assignments

These problems are serious and, worse, all too common. The good news is: WE CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT!

The Solution: PathFinder
One of the main excuses students offer for skipping classes is that they don’t see any connection between what they’re learning in school and the so-called “real world.” In fact, PathFinder is specifically designed to “Connect Classrooms and Careers” by offering students a chance to participate in work-based learning activities like job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships, etc.

Also, using PathFinder’s “Original Documents” tool, teachers can create forms for reports, essays and other assignments they want students to submit. From any computer with internet access, students can pull up the assigned form, fill in the blanks, and “publish” their work—making it accessible to teachers 24/7. Teachers can then post their comments on their student’s assignment and students can respond—ALL ONLINE!

How can you learn to use these tools in your classroom with your students? Simply register for the upcoming “PathFinder: Master Certification Series.” At this professional development training program, teachers, guidance counselors, youth program coordinators and others will learn to use all of the tools available in PathFinder’s “Portfolio” and “Opportunity” systems.

Imagine your students engaging in “threaded discussions,” submitting online assignments, exploring colleges and careers, preparing for the ACT, SAT, MAP or GED tests, getting homework help, assessing their own skills and interests, and finding part-time or summer jobs—THROUGH A SINGLE INTERNET SITE!

Here are more details about the 2003 Master Series training and how your school can utilize PathFinder as a resource for improving your student scholarship:

PathFinder 101: Introduction to PathFinder
Covers: registration and activation; individual profile; interests; resume; education and career planning; additional resources; and opportunity system (overview)

PathFinder 201: Portfolio System
Covers: class checklist and planner; scores, grades and awards; transcripts; template maker/template editor (documents); original documents

PathFinder 301: Opportunity System
Covers: work-based learning opportunities (posting and requesting); online assistant; YORC man; student accounts; and community calendar

PathFinder 401: Advanced Classroom Applications
Covers: threaded-discussion forums; individualized learning plan template maker/template editor (standards and rubrics); FTP (file management) tool; clustering; exporting data; and coordinator notes

This professional development series will provide 2 hours of class, plus 1 hour of optional self-directed application. Those who successfully complete all four modules in the series will receive a “Master Certificate.” Also, participants will receive a “Professional Development” certificate and 3 hours of PDUs for each module completed. We recommend that two participants attend from each school or youth organization, if possible.

NOTE: If you have completed a “PathFinder 101” training in the past, you do not need to retake the 101 module in the “Master Series.”

Master Certification Series -- 2003 Schedule:
PathFinder 101: Thurs., Jan. 15, 2003, 9 am-12 noon
PathFinder 201: Thurs., Feb. 20, 2003, 9 am-12 noon
PathFinder 301: Thurs., Mar. 20, 2003, 9 am-12 noon
PathFinder 401: Thurs., Apr. 17, 2003, 9 am-12 noon

All sessions will be held in the Jack Taylor Lab of the E. Des Lee Technology & Learning Center (TLC), 100 Marillac Hall, located on the South Campus of the University of MO-St. Louis. There is no fee for the initial PathFinder 101 session. The fee for sessions 201, 301 and 401 is $40 each per participant—OR $100 total for those who pre-register for all sessions and pay in advance. (See the next page for the registration form.)

To register or learn more, contact Rosanne by phone at 314-516-4378 (main number) or 314-516-4349 (direct), or by email at pathfinder@umsl.edu.

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Organization Name: ______________________________________________________________

Street Address: ___________________________________________________________________

City: ______________________________________ State: _______ Zip: ___________

Contact Phone: ___________________________ E-mail: __________________________

Please include your mailing address so we can send a confirmation, map, directions and parking permit(s).

Participant(s): ________________________ Session(s) ________________________

indicate 101, 201, 301, 401 or ALL

1. ____________________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________________________

PathFinder 101: Thursday, January 15, 2003 9 am - 12 noon Free
PathFinder 201: Thursday, February 20, 2003 9 am - 12 noon $40.00*
PathFinder 301: Thursday, March 20, 2003 9 am - 12 noon $40.00*
PathFinder 401: Thursday, April 17, 2003 9 am - 12 noon $40.00*

*Save $ by registering in advance for all four sessions: $100 total per participant.

Special issues, needs or questions:
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

Please fax completed form to Rosanne Vrugtman, at 314-516-6897 to receive an invoice.
OR: Complete this form, include a check payable to UM-St. Louis and mail to:

Bernadette Dalton, UM-St. Louis, Regional Center for Education & Work,
8001 Natural Bridge, RCEW, Ste. 11, St. Louis, MO 63121

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**NO FEE to participate!**

**YOU'RE INVITED** to attend this hands-on training event to learn more about PathFinder, a web-based career exploration system now serving employers, schools, youth organizations throughout the region.

**Educators:** PathFinder provides access to an electronic portfolio for students and an array of employer-provided school-to-career activities.

**Youth Professionals:** PathFinder expands education and career options for your clients, as well as resources for counselors and youth professionals.

**Employers:** PathFinder provides a single point-of-contact for you and automates coordination of your community outreach activities—at no cost to you!

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**St. Louis PathFinder Network**
University of MO-St. Louis
Regional Center for Education & Work
8001 Natural Bridge Dr., RCEW, Suite 11
St. Louis, MO 63121

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**Who Should Attend:** Educators, administrators, guidance counselors, school board members, social service providers, career program coordinators, employers, chamber personnel, community and municipal leaders, parents, workforce development specialists, others. **NOTE:** We recommend **two participants** attend from each agency, if possible.

**When:**
Session A—Wed, Dec. 4th, 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Session B—Wed, Dec. 4th, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Where:**
E. Des Lee Technology & Learning Center (TLC)
100 Marillac Hall, South Campus, UM-St. Louis

To Register or to learn more: Call **314-516-4378**, or email Rosanne at **vrugtmanr@msx.umsl.edu**

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**PathFinder:** “Connecting Classrooms with Careers” through electronic portfolios and work-based learning opportunities.

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**MEET YOUR PATHFINDER STAFF**

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**Seated left to right:**
Jim Duane, Assistant Director/RCEW
Rosanne Vrugtman, PathFinder Coordinator
Bernadette Dalton, Administrative Assistant/RCEW

Our offices are located at I-70 and Florissant Road, on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus. If you have questions or need assistance, we invite you to contact or visit us anytime at:

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**St. Louis PathFinder Network**
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