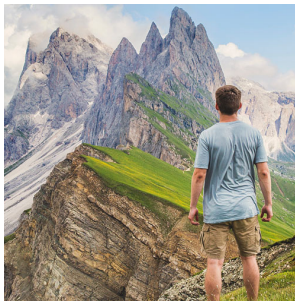
ESSENTIAL SKILLS™

GOAL SETTING

What is a goal?
A goal is a desired result that you envision and commit to achieve.
In other words...
You have to know what you want so you can take steps to get there.
Why set goals?
Setting a goal is like marking a destination on your life map – you need to know where you're going in order to plan the best route. You can start where you are and go where you dream, but to get there you'll have to set goals and identify the steps it will take to reach them. Many career paths depend on earning a college degree, so one of the first important goals you can set is to go to college.

TEAMWORK

What is Teamwork?
Teamwork is collaborating with others to achieve a common goal.
In other words...
We can accomplish bigger and better things when we work together.
Why be part of a team?
Technology makes it easier than ever to communicate and collaborate with each other, but if we all talk at once, it can be hard to get anything done. Like anything else, working well together takes practice. While being on a team can be challenging, it can allow you to maximize your strengths and bring out the best in each team member. Teamwork helps us achieve objectives in school, work and life: service projects, group academic assignments, internships, friendships and family relationships all depend on it.



PERSEVERANCE

What is perseverance?
Perseverance is the determination to overcome challenges to achieve your goals.
In other words...
When something sets you back and you decide to keep pushing forward even though it would be easier to quit, that's perseverance.
Why is perseverance important?
Failures and mistakes are part of life. Perseverance allows you to overcome those challenges and turn them into something productive. Having perseverance is more likely to lead to success than almost any other quality; when you have it, you can use failure as a motivating tool, which will help you move forward throughout college, career, and life.

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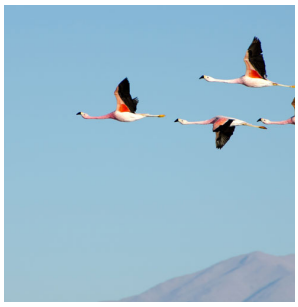


LEADERSHIP

What is leadership?

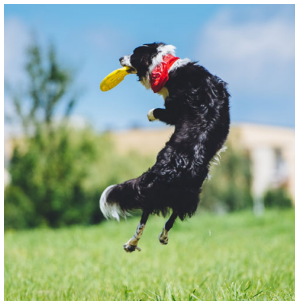
Leadership is taking charge of your own future and then lifting up your peers. When you get on the college and career readiness pathway and then help your peers get on this track, you are a leader. You also make your school and community a better place.

In other words...

Everyone can be a leader by becoming college and career ready and by helping others get on that same pathway.

Why be a leader?

When you make the effort to work toward your own goals, you're leading by example. Working hard, and encouraging others to become college and career ready, is an important part of the CFES experience. Whatever a scholar's age, there are important ways to develop leadership skills. Being a leader will enhance your college and career opportunities. People with leadership skills are more likely to hold managerial positions as adults and earn higher incomes than those in non-leadership roles. To develop leadership attributes, challenge yourself and pave the way for a bright career and future.



AGILITY

What is Agility?

Agility is the capacity to be adaptable and responsive to changing circumstances.

In other words...

It can be hard when big things in your life change. But if you're willing to see these challenges as opportunities or adventures, that's agility!

Why do I need to be Agile?

Agility helps you succeed in a changing world. It allows you to embrace new opportunities and circumstances and ultimately be comfortable with uncertainty and change. We know, for example, that most of the jobs of tomorrow, especially many of the high-paying ones, do not exist today. So you may need to change your own course even if you've planned carefully. An agile person can adapt and adjust and overcome hurdles that arise. Your success in college and career depends on knowing the questions to ask and the people to work with to find answers you need, and becoming comfortable with being uncomfortable.

NETWORKING

What is Networking?

Networking is turning an acquaintance into a supporter. Your network can include mentors, teachers, family, friends and people you meet through extracurricular activities. In fact, just about anyone you meet can become part of your network.

In other words...

Networking is about putting your best foot forward, meeting new people and getting them to support you and your goals.

Why should you network?

Even the most talented people need help from others to achieve their goals. Networking is an Essential Skill™ that can help you develop supportive relationships that connect you to academic and career opportunities now and in the future. Have you ever heard the expression, "Who you know is more important than what you know?" Your network is who you know, and it can play an important role in your success.

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