

## Preparing Students for the Real World: Issues and Opportunities

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## The Challenge

Universities and employers are looking for well-prepared high school graduates who are ready to assume the responsibilities of higher level academics and the workplace.

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## Will They Get This?



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**Or This?**



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**Let's Look at Some of the Issues**

**Fact #1:** Among the top eighteen industrialized nations in the world, the United States ranks **ninth** in the world in enrollment but **dead last** in completion rates.

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**Fact #2:** According to colleges and employers, young adults are less successful at college and in the workplace not for lack of academic knowledge, but for **lack of "soft skills"** like endurance, self-reliance, communication, resourcefulness, and problem-solving.

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### Other issues at hand:

- The students taking leadership courses are not necessarily the ones who need it most
- Perceived lack of relevance for FCS courses/ clubs (when the opposite is true)
- Competition from other programs (e.g., STEM) for funding and "airspace"
- Increasingly prescribed programming

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### The Opportunities

- To be at the forefront of life skills development for college, career, and life readiness
- To be viewed as the solution and becoming more mainstreamed in schools
- To engage local business communities (funding, support)

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### What Are Some Solutions?



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- ### Training the Whole Person: Examples of Life Success Pointers
- *Become a masterful decision maker*
  - *Time is precious; use it wisely*
  - *Be an inspiring team player*
  - *Regularly show appreciation and gratitude*
  - *Solicit and embrace constructive feedback*
  - *Adversity often makes sense in retrospect*
  - *Embrace change as an opportunity*
  - *Demonstrate the qualities employers value*

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### LifeSmart Publishing, LLC Versatile Resources for Student Leadership Development

- Innovative Leadership Curriculum: *What I Wish I Knew at 18*
- Serving Administrators, Faculty, Counselors, and Students
- Natural Bridge with Students and Parents!

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### **Distinctions of Our Program**

- Personal leadership foundation for life
- Demonstrates practices of admired, successful leaders
- Perspective (addresses the needs of the workplace)
- Self-discovery, collaboration, application
- Practical and engaging
- Broad scope (“one stop shop”)
- Flexible (full core curriculum or supplemental)
- Complete lessons for immediate implementation

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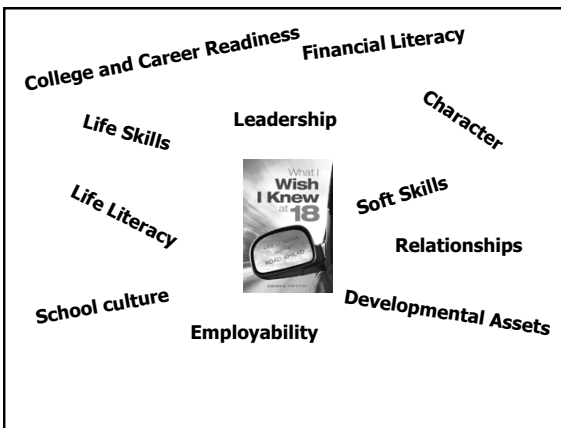
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### **WIWIK@18 Intersections**

- FCS Core Standards
- FCCLA Star Events
- 40 Developmental Assets
- AAFCS Webinar (“Life is about Relationships”)
- Voice to parents; advocating for schools and teens
- FCCLA section under “Toolkit” on website

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### Contact Information

- Available at dennistritin.com, Amazon, AtlasBooks, and bookstores
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- Weekly e newsletter ([www.dennistritin.com](http://www.dennistritin.com))
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**THANK YOU**  
for building the next generation of  
honorable leaders.  
**We salute you!**



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