THE TOP 10 MOST POPULAR CAREERS INCLUDE:

1. Registered Nurse
2. Professional Athlete
3. Artist
4. Musician/Singer
5. Athletic Trainer/Sports Medicine
6. Physician/Surgeon
7. Actor/Actress
8. Veterinarian/Veterinary Technician
9. Photographer
10. Mechanical Engineer

STEM LEADS THE PACK

STEM leads the pack with 45 percent of respondents interested in STEM careers such as physician, mechanical engineer, computer programmer, or marine biologist, followed by career paths in arts and athletics.

SKILLED TRADES MAY CONTINUE TO FACE LABOR SHORTAGES

Only 3% of survey respondents expressed interest in one of the skilled trades, and nearly half of those—46 percent—are interested in automotive work, a field that may experience decreasing demand as vehicle technology advances.

GENDER GAPS PERSIST IN NUMEROUS FIELDS

18% of male students chose an engineering career, compared to 3 percent of females.

40% of female students expressed interest in a health career, compared to 12 percent of males.

MORE THAN 2,800,000 young people have participated in the Exploring program since its founding in 1998.

HEALTH CARE IS HOT

4 OF THE 10 most popular career options cited by survey respondents were in the health care field.

2x Middle school respondents were twice as likely as their 12th-grade counterparts to select careers in athletics and the arts, while interest in health and business careers increased as respondents entered high school.

2 TO 1 Male respondents were twice as likely to choose a business career as women.

The survey was fielded in 2016 to more than 150,000 students from 6th to 12th grade to gauge interest in more than 200 career options.