Coaches consider both educational, career goals when helping students choose college pathways.

“Life is marked by decisions, especially when it comes to choosing the right path that meets the needs of our students,” said Bridget Busby, director of the Career Academy at Florida State University. “The role of a coach is to guide students and encourage them to make the right choice.”

In some industries, students must complete job training in order to advance to the next level. This can include industry certifications. These certifications can incorporate training and assessment to help students develop their skills. For example, Erik Cusick, a computer systems professional, has earned many industry certifications, which have helped him advance in his career. He has already completed the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and the Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) certifications. These certifications required him to complete continuing education units (CEUs) each year. CEUs are given for the number of hours worked in the field, as well as for the number of hours of work experience. Both can be used to earn the required number of CEUs each year to keep his certifications valid.

The next certification course Erik plans to take is Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) and the Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) certifications. These certifications have helped him advance in his career, but he is not done yet. He has two more great certifications to go before he reaches his goal of becoming a Certified Information Technology Professional (CITP).

When we talk to students for the first time, we want to find out what their career goals are,” Busby said. “We want to make sure that we have the information that they need to choose the right path.”

Coaches consider both educational, career goals when helping students choose college pathways. They look at the “why” behind policies and theories. They help students set and knowledge base by providing a scholarship to assist with the cost of an industry certification course offered though UWF. The scholarship is available for students who are pursuing a degree in computer science or information technology.

“By providing scholarships, we are able to help students make their education more accessible,” Busby said. “We want to make sure that students have the opportunity to learn the skills that they need to be successful in their careers.”

In addition to the scholarships, the Career Academy has partnered with various stakeholders to create the Open Florida: Educational Resources (OPEN FL) project. OPEN FL is a high-quality, online platform that is dedicated to supporting the education and career development of adults in Florida. The project is focused on providing resources that can help adults make informed decisions about their education and career development.

The project includes a range of resources, such as educational videos, webinars, and blogs. The resources are designed to provide information about different educational and career paths, as well as to help students develop their skills. The resources are accessible to anyone who is interested in learning more about educational and career development.

The project has already seen success, with more than 1 million people visiting the website. The website has also received positive feedback from users, who have found the resources to be helpful and informative.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION Join the conversation on social media and support the efforts of Connect Florida.

Michelle Horton, Ed.D. is President of Workforce Florida, Inc., the state’s designated workforce development board. She is a leader in workforce development, workforce management and higher education initiatives. Prior to her current role, Horton served as the director of the National Center for Education and the Workforce at George Washington University.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION Join the conversation on social media and support the efforts of Connect Florida.

Michelle Horton, Ed.D. is President of Workforce Florida, Inc., the state’s designated workforce development board. She is a leader in workforce development, workforce management and higher education initiatives. Prior to her current role, Horton served as the director of the National Center for Education and the Workforce at George Washington University.