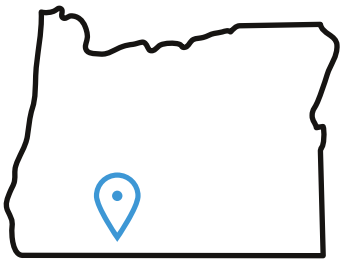
CAREER JOURNEYS

Lesson 2

Jessica West

Health Sciences Teacher



Klamath Falls

About Jessica

Jessica West is a CTE Health Sciences Educator at Henley High School in Klamath Falls, Oregon. She shines a light for curious students on career paths in the health field. But beyond exploring different medical occupations, West imparts her students with a sense of communal responsibility. "I want them to know how to treat people. I want them to be good husbands and wives and brothers and sisters and sons and daughters."

It's not just a 9-to-5 job for West. She's emotionally invested in her students' success after they leave the classroom. That's one of the things she loves most about teaching: connecting with students on a deeper level.

West's career trajectory was never a straight line. Like so many others, she changed her major a few times in college – from studying dental hygiene to nursing, to finally specializing in mammography. But when she was offered a teaching job after bumping into her old anatomy and physiology teacher at the store, she took a career leap, inspired by the teachers that shaped her education.

Beyond school, West loves doing anything in the outdoors. She also loves living in a small town where everyone knows each other and community ties are strong.

Objectives:

Students will:

- Learn about potential career paths in the health and medical field and how those work experiences can lead to becoming a CTE Health Sciences Educator.
- Understand the skills and requirements needed for being a Career Technical Educator.
- Learn some of the challenges and benefits of first working in a career field and then working in a classroom.

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Resources

1. Career Journeys Video: Jessica West – Caseworker (time)
2. Career Journeys Video: Q&A with Jessica West (time)
3. Career Journey Lesson Plan Guidebook

Teacher Prep

Preview the 2 videos listed in the resources section at left.

Instructor's Note:

The videos can be screened for groups of students or assigned individually for self-guided study.

Lesson Plan

WARM-UP

Share the following:
Jessica West is a health and sciences teacher at Henley High School in Klamath Falls, Oregon. She teaches students about opportunities in the health and medical field.

To focus student engagement, provide the following grounding questions prior to viewing the Profile Video:

- What comes to mind when you think about jobs in education?
- When you think of teachers, what kinds of activities come to mind?
- When you think of someone working in the health sciences, what kinds of activities come to mind?
- Why might someone choose education as a career path?
- Why might someone choose a career field and later move into education?
- What new career terminology or language did you encounter that needs explanation or definition?

Provide students with the Profile Video (linked above) for synchronous or asynchronous viewing.

After viewing the Profile Video, ask students to engage in a brief dialogue, quick write, or table talk on the grounding questions provided.

INSTRUCTION

Provide students with the following discussion questions prior to viewing the Q&A Video:

- What was her major in college?
- How did she get her current job?
- What does West do on a day-to-day basis?
- What questions do you still have about West's job?
- What are some skills you think would be useful in her job?
- What kind of skill sets in health and sciences can be transferred into teaching?

Provide students with the Q&A Video for synchronous or asynchronous viewing.

After viewing the Q&A Video, ask students to engage in a dialogue based upon the discussion questions as a class, group or partner.

Ask students to complete a Quick/Extended Write and/or Individual/Group Research project.

Quick/Extended Write

- Students can evaluate, analyze, or apply their understanding by completing a quick write based upon a topic from the above discussion items.

- Ask students to write a journalistic 250-350 word profile story that would introduce West and describe her career path to readers.
    - Here's a **useful link** you can use to help students craft their profiles.

Individual/Group Research

- Students can choose this career path or related field and complete research to determine necessary education, work experience, day in the life, core tasks, job availability, and salary range. Information can be shared back to the instructor or with other learners.
- What career terminology related to this video subject do individuals or groups need to further investigate to deepen their knowledge and understanding of this occupation?

EXTENDED LEARNING ACTIVITES

Provide students with Extended Learning Activities for deeper engagement through the following ways:

- Small group discussion
- Socratic Seminar
- Word Walls
- Gallery Walk
- Career path and/or career vision poster
- Resumes; what are they, how to build
- How to fill out a job application
- Mock Interviews

REFLECTION OF LEARNING

Students should be able to reflect upon, and:

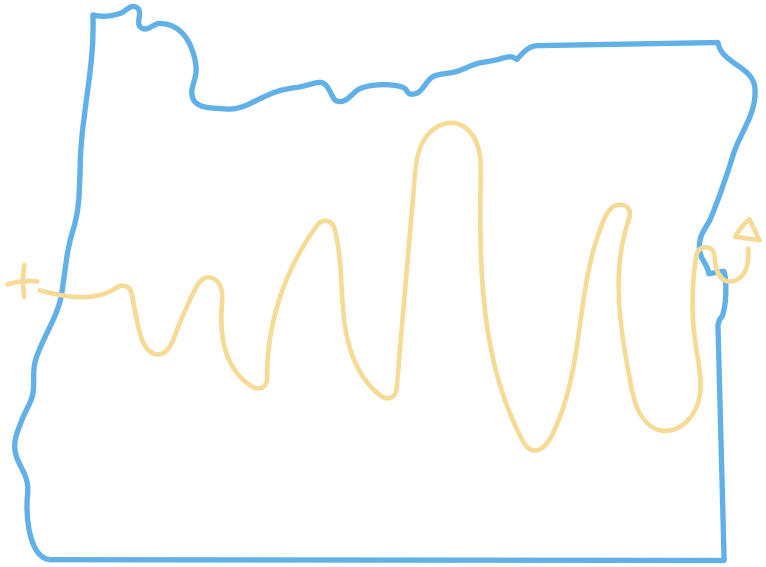
- Identify the skills needed to work in the health and medical field and then later apply those skills to becoming a CTE Educator in Health Sciences. This includes academic, technical and essential employability skills that students can learn about, explore, and develop in their middle school and high school environments.

- Identify and describe careers that are related to or share similarities to the career in this video.

- Categorize this career into the CTE Career Clusters and determine the academic courses, experiences, and opportunities that are available to them at their school and region.

- Envision themselves in this career area and consider if they would have the desire to pursue opportunities to further

Thank you for following us on this journey!



Share with us!

Join **Oregon Open Learning** and become a member of the **Oregon Career Awareness and Exploration Group**!

Share your unique lesson plans and units developed around the Career Journeys Video Series with educators, counselors, mentors and families around the state.

A collaboration between the Journalistic Learning Initiative, the Oregon Department of Education and the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication

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