



## Roadtrip Nation

### ABOUT ROADTRIP NATION

Roadtrip Nation is an independent organization that empowers students to define their own roads in life through resources such as its annual PBS television series, live campus events, nationally-publicized books, multi-media online content, and an innovative educational curriculum.

Its roots go back to 2001 when recent grads Mike Marriner, Brian McAllister and Nathan Gebhard decided to take a roadtrip in hopes of discovering their place in the world. The idea for the roadtrip was simple: if you don't know what to do with your life, go out and talk to people who are doing what they love and ask them how they got there.

### RTN in EDUCATION

Roadtrip Nation's new extension into academia develops curriculum and resources to help high school students gain access and exposure to life pathways that they may have otherwise not known existed. The *Roadtrip Nation Experience* connects those students to the vast RTN Interview Archive, which has been built over the last seven years by students participating in Roadtrip Nation programs interviewing a wide range of individuals and recording their conversations. The goals of the *Roadtrip Nation Experience* are:

- 1) **Increase relevance in student's educational experience** by connecting them to the real world via RTN experiential-learning programs and engaging multi-media content.
- 2) **Broaden student exposure to pathways** and opportunities that relate to their individual passions and interests.
- 3) **Develop students 21st century skills** by leveraging RTN programs and resources that guide them in researching, project management, communication, team work, leadership, as well as technology and written communication skills.

### THE CURRICULUM

The *Roadtrip Nation Experience* curriculum is composed of 24 lessons, which together form a career exploration and skills development program that can stand-alone or may be easily integrated into an existing course as an inspirational, skills-based self-discovery component. Because of this flexibility inherent in the curriculum, as well as the different avenues available for students to express themselves (writing, drawing, interactive online tasks, multimedia activities), classroom teachers can tailor it to meet the needs of students of varying degrees of ability, including those with learning disabilities.

The first two sections, *Part 1) Exposure* and *Part 2) Self-Construction*, leverage the Roadtrip Nation library of student-generated video interviews and years of experience to help high school students begin the exploration process, and then *Part 3) Hit the Road*, guides students in creating their own roadtrip experience right in their local communities to interview adults in careers they find interesting.

### GRANT TO SUPPORT REGION V PARTICIPATION

A grant from the Hewlett Foundation will cover the costs for implementing RTN in 10<sup>th</sup> grade AVID classes in Region V (typically \$25/student). The program includes student journal workbooks, online curriculum accounts for both the student and instructor, and general training and support from the RTN team.

### WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

If you are interested in implementing RTN in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade AVID class/es at your high school, plan to attend one of the September trainings in the region: September 14, Monterey COE (West Campus #6), 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. or Tuesday, September 15, Santa Clara COE (Saratoga Room), 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. For more information, contact Andrea Lichter, AVID Regional Director, at 408/453-6899 or [alichter@sccoe.org](mailto:alichter@sccoe.org).