**ThinkingAboutYourFuture**

**The goal for this exercise** is to both get you thinking about what you'll do after you finish at Cascadia, and to help you connect with other people who have similar goals in this class.

**Background:** It’s often difficult to find time to think about where you’re going in your life. There’s always other stuff, and sometimes even when you stop and think about it the details seem overwhelming. I’d like to help you dedicate some time to doing this, even if you don’t spend a ton of time typing up detailed materials.

For this exercise I’d like you to think about what your goals are for “after Cascadia”. You can assign whatever (reasonable) meaning that you want to this, as long as you’re thinking “long-term” (E.g., saying something goofy like “After Cascadia finally ends tonight, I’m gonna go home and play XBOX!!!! WHOOOO!” will get you no points).   
  
Examples of good goals might include (but are *definitely* not limited to):

* Transferring to a four year institution in order to…
  + …continue studying computer science
  + …study something very technical, but not computer science (for example, UW-Tacoma has a four-year degree in “IT”)
  + …study something else, such as engineering
* Using the knowledge that you’ve gained at Cascadia to advance in your current career (i.e., at your current job)
* Using the knowledge that you’ve gained at Cascadia to find a new job…
  + … in the same field
  + … in a different field
* Etc.

After you’ve had some time to think about it I want you to post to the discussion forum and (briefly) explain what you’re hoping to do soon after finishing your coursework at Cascadia.

You should then look for other people in the discussion forum who have similar goals, and talk to them about your joint goals. The objective here is to get you thinking about (and talking about) what your ‘next steps’ are in order to achieve your goal(s).

**What you need to do for this exercise:**

Post two comments to this week’s discussion forum.

1. The first comment is intended help people both think about what you want to do after Cascadia and to help people find other people who have similar interests.   
   To that end- post a short (3-5 sentence) summary of what your goals are for what you want to do once you leave Cascadia.
2. The second comment should be to another person, in order to discuss their goals. I am encouraging y’all to talk about ‘next steps’ that you’ll need to take in order to achieve those goals, but I want to leave this open-ended in case y’all decide that the most useful thing to discuss is something else. So as long as your comments are positive and substantive you’ll get credit.
   1. I’m hoping that everyone can find at least one other person who shares your goals, but if not then you should find a person who’s goals that you find interesting and comment there.
   2. I’m specifying “positive and substantive” specifically to rule out “me too” posts, or posts that offer very little new material.