

## Letter to POET Families and Guardians

### Helping to Build Your Student's Career Success

Children develop their first understanding of career success frameworks by observing their parents' career and job successes. Such successes, and the lessons that children learn from them, can be as varied as families can be. Some children recognize success when their family has achieved a sense of economic vitality; others when their family has effectively weathered a severe economic downturn. Children can learn tenacity and ambition when they see a family member receiving a promotion or salary increase after consistently good performance on the job. They can learn service and commitment when a family hunkers down if a family member is overseas or away. Every day, a family can experience a career development moment; and when your child becomes a student at Whittier College, she or he will be ready to partner with the talented team of career development professionals at the [Weingart Center for Career and Professional Development](#) to build upon those career development experiences that you have already provided your children. Consider how you can create a career development partnership with your student, especially while he or she attends Whittier College. Be ready to act as a sounding board when your student shares career aspirations with you, even if some of those aspirations seem at first to be fantastical, farfetched, or overambitious. Encourage your student to find resources and career development partners on campus to help them develop the career success framework they first started building with you – a framework which will allow your student to fully engage in learning; to develop skills and competencies through on- and off-campus experiences like clubs, leadership opportunities, societies, internships, and study-abroad; and to connect with mentors, alumni, and sponsors who can help them seamlessly transition into a career identity that suits their core career values, interests, and goals. For more information about the career development of college students, or about the career development approaches used at the Weingart Center for Career and Professional Development, please contact the Career Center team at [careerplanning@whittier.edu](mailto:careerplanning@whittier.edu) or the Assistant Dean, Deborah Pratt, [dpratt@whittier.edu](mailto:dpratt@whittier.edu).