Even though in today’s economy, it’s necessary to have some type of education or training beyond high school, the journey through education to a fulfilling, family-sustaining career is not always linear. Enrolling in a four-year college right after high school isn’t the only path to long-term success — nor is it the only way to ultimately earn a bachelor’s degree. Students can pursue different education, training, and work-based learning experiences to explore their options and gain the knowledge, skills, and credentials necessary for success.

Like a trip on the subway, different pathways can run in parallel, diverge, or intersect at various points. But as with a journey on public transportation, mapping your route in advance can help ensure a more direct path to career success.