



ST. BENEDICT'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL

THE BIGS

CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER



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Real World
Career Readiness.

The St. Benedict's Way.

THE BIGS CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

THE BIGS Career Development Center is a joint effort between noted author, Ben Carpenter, and St. Benedict's Preparatory School. Combining the principles developed by Mr. Carpenter with the nationally-acclaimed student leadership model and educational philosophies of St. Benedict's Prep, THE BIGS is a unique career training curriculum for students in grades 7 to 12 that will provide them all the "real world" tools necessary to choose a career, find a job, and succeed in their chosen occupation – and in life.

THE NEED

Industry professionals in the U.S. have expressed widespread dissatisfaction with the job readiness of college graduates. A 2014 Harris Poll of over two thousand hiring managers found that 54% complained of college students having "too much book learning instead of real world learning." Other surveys of business leaders have revealed similar widely held sentiments, and point out a major educational weakness in our country. Not only do students not know the answers to career questions—they don't even know what the questions are.

THE BIGS is structured so that students begin thinking about their future now, allowing every student a better chance of finding their dream job and career.

THE BENEFITS

For Students: This program will significantly increase the odds that high school graduates will choose careers and get jobs that give them a better chance to realize their professional hopes and dreams.

For Alumni: Graduates are more likely to stay involved with a school if the school continues to support them after graduation day. And grads who enjoy successful careers are more likely to help current students and fellow alumni. For some, this will also increase their ability and desire to financially support their *alma mater*.

For Equal Opportunity: Transitioning from school to the work world is not easy for anyone. However, for young people without a large network of professional contacts, the difficulty increases. The playing field can be made more level if less-advantaged students receive career training about how to network with professionals from their high schools and colleges, and are taught how to shine when opportunities arise to land internships and full-time jobs. Like in sports, determination and confidence are the two greatest assets in the work world. Successful professionals come from all backgrounds.

For America's Competitive Position: The primary purpose of career training is to strengthen the professional skills of individuals. However, if done well and on a large scale, career training can also affect job creation and productivity. THE BIGS directly addresses the issues holding back many students from becoming successful young professionals, and ultimately will lead to increased productivity and a stronger country.

"THE BIGS opened my eyes. I didn't realize at first all that I'd have to think about as I prepare myself for college and, eventually, the job market. I really feel like I have a leg up."

FARAD WILLIAMS, CLASS OF 2016



PRINCIPLES OF THE BIGS

I. Career training is the RESPONSIBILITY of high schools.

- All college counselors recommend students apply to colleges that are best suited to them; however, a huge piece of that puzzle is missing if a student has no idea in what careers she or he might be interested.
- Students who know how they intend to use their education in a career are able to write more focused essays, and be more compelling in interviews about why a college should be interested in accepting them.
- Most colleges do a poor job of offering career training because they don't consider it central to their academic missions, and when programs are offered, few students participate because colleges generally don't require students to participate in anything non-academic.
- In America, three million seniors graduate high school each year, and one million won't attend college. For these young men and women, it's even more important to receive career training in high school because they are making decisions right now that will have enormous consequences for their future. Becoming excited about a career might make some of these students decide to pursue more education, and while college isn't the place for everyone, learning how to choose, get, and do a great job are skills that everyone needs.

II. Career training should be REQUIRED of high school students.

It is wishful thinking to believe that a typical 16-to-21 year-old appreciates the importance of using high school and college to prepare for professional careers. The small percentage of students in high school and college who do seek out career-training programs are, by definition, the ones who least need it.

"I feel blessed that St. Benedict's understands education is only part of my son's journey and not the destination. When he finishes college, I want him to become a successful professional. I believe St. Benedict's intense focus on personal responsibility and career training will help him become that person."

CLASS OF 2018 PARENT

ELEMENTS OF THE BIGS

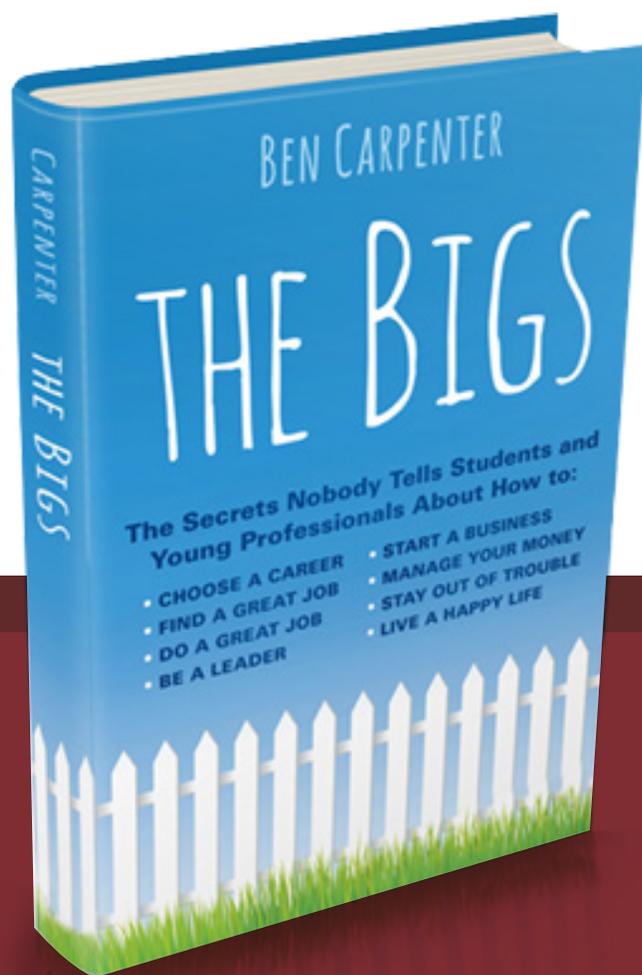
- Developing confidence
- Expanding leadership opportunities
- Broadening interest in world affairs
- Honing communication skills
- Choosing a career
- Building a network
- Managing personal finances
- Preparing a resume
- Navigating a college career services office
- Securing informational and job interviews
- Leading a happy life



For more information on THE BIGS Career Development Center,

please contact Farad Lowther, director, at (973) 792-5743 or flowther@sbp.org.

To discuss investing in THE BIGS, please contact Michael Fazio, chief advancement officer, at (973) 792-5777 or mfazio@sbp.org.



ABOUT BEN CARPENTER AND THE BIGS

Ben Carpenter had two highly successful careers: one as a financial services CEO, the other as owner of a wild bar in Manhattan. Also, Ben has been the worried father of a recent college graduate who was about to botch her first job—before her first day at work! Ben's panic led him to write *The Bigs: The Secrets Nobody Tells Students and Young Professionals About How to Find a Great Job, Do a Great Job, Be a Leader, Start a Business, Stay Out of Trouble, and Live A Happy Life*. This changed the lives of both him and his daughter, as well as the lives of countless other students and young professionals.

Since publication of *The Bigs*, Ben has been in high demand as a speaker by high schools, colleges, the U.S. military, corporations, clubs, and other organizations including the U.S. Ski Team. He also contributed an op-ed piece to the New York Times titled "Is Your Student Ready for Life?" which the paper reported to be their "Most Emailed" on Labor Day 2014.

This is all part of Ben's way of giving back. He receives no compensation from speaking engagements or THE BIGS Career Development Center, and he has often donated books to organizations unable to afford them. For more about Ben and *The Bigs*, go to www.thebigsworld.com.



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