

## CAREER COUNSELING WORKSHOP B.U.C.<sup>(1)</sup>

A career counseling workshop for secondary school teachers was held at Beirut University College on March 12, 1980. The purpose of the workshop was to help teachers to identify students interests and aptitudes and use career information effectively. Dean Riyad Nassar welcomed the participants who were designated by their schools to attend the workshop. These teachers all advise students who are making career choices. Several also have administrative responsibilities. The group included seven males and fourteen females and fourteen held at least a Bachelor of Arts degree.

The day-long workshop began with small group discussions of factors affecting the participants' choice of a career. A summary of their discussions indicated that the most influential factors in their career decision making were events, personal choice, and people, in particular family members and teachers. Following these discussions a paper, **Career Guidance and Counseling: An Overview**, was presented by Evelyn Richards.

After coffee with members of the BUC Executive Council, the teachers were introduced to some self-assessment techniques. These included an Interest Check List and a presentation of some typical personality types by BUC students coordinated by Mrs. Maha Khuri.

The afternoon session focused on career information and resources. A brochure, **Careers**, developed at BUC and based on a recent research project was presented to the workshop participants. The brochure was used to demonstrate how to use occupational resources in studying an occupation.

The program concluded by summarizing the problems students face as they are making career choices. Some of these problems are:

- Family pressures
- Status of occupations
- Finances
- Lack of information about self
- Lack of information about occupations
- Lack of alternatives
- Lack of trained guidance personnel
- Early choice between Arts and Sciences
- Competition (entrance examinations).

A summary of the participants' evaluation indicates that they attended the workshop primarily to gain information. The **Career** brochure and discussion of personality types were the most valuable parts of the workshop. A large majority of them would like more and longer workshops.

The Guidance Office Staff appreciates the enthusiasm and interest of the participants and looks forward to working with the Secondary Schools as they continue to develop career guidance programs in the future.

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(1) E. Richards, guidance office, BUC, May 5, 1980.