

A WORKFORCE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY: Employer partnerships expand student and alumni career prospects

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“Getting a college degree is a lot easier than getting an education,” says **Patrick Cate**, Rivier’s Director of Academic and Career Advising. “An education goes beyond attending classes and earning credits. Employers are asking graduates to develop interpersonal relationships and to make cold calls; they want them to comprehend what they read and be able to write more than 140 characters.”

Last fall, Rivier announced its Employment Promise Program to the incoming class, which promises invested students that they will be employed within nine months of graduation or receive additional financial or educational support from Rivier. The University strengthened its commitment to a workforce-ready education this fall with the creation of the Employer Partner Network (EPN).

Aimed at offering career growth opportunities, the Network builds relationships with distinguished organizations to provide job shadowing, internship and job openings to students and alumni. *RivierConnect*, the EPN portal, allows registered members to maintain online resumes and digital portfolios and to access career development and employment opportunities from more than 100 approved Employer Partners.

“We are currently working with UPS to recruit part-time human resources interns and with BAE Systems to recruit for their Contracts Department Summer 2018 Internship Program,” says **Patricia Antonelli**, Executive Director of University Career Services. “Both UPS and BAE Systems are offering paid internships and are looking at a combination of business and liberal arts undergraduate majors and alumni.”

Professional development programs introduced early in students’ Rivier experience enable them to build stronger resumes, networks, and interviewing and job skills. *RivierConnect* also provides a platform for alumni to access and contribute to the Network. “Alumna and current graduate student Allison Varela ’14/’17G reached out to us with biotech opportunities to add to the Network,” says Antonelli.

University Career Services and Employer Partners host networking events, job shadows and site visits, industry panels, various career development workshops, and a job and internship fair. Participation in these high-impact events begins in students’ first year at Rivier and offers exposure to interviewing managers and work-based learning experiences. Many internships are paid and lead to offers of full-time employment for students and alumni. These activities augment academic learning, enhance a Rivier education, and increase overall employability.

“Employers are looking for Rivier-educated employees,” shares Antonelli. “They join the Network and participate in career events to find and attract the strongest candidates for their companies.”

The Employer Partner Network and *RivierConnect* are new tools for students and alumni to utilize in building their careers. Complementing Rivier’s liberal arts education, participation in EPN opportunities assists in getting that first, and next, great job! ■

RivierConnect

Powered by: College Central Network
where students, alumni and employers connect
for internships, jobs and more.