The Career Center provides all Illinois students collaborative and innovative programs, services, and resources focused on career and professional development that educates and empowers them to become thriving professionals in the global community.

This report demonstrates the difference that The Career Center makes for Illinois’ students, employers, members of our campus community, and beyond. You will learn about the scope of programs and services offered during the 2017-2018 academic year. See what students and colleagues say about the quality of their experiences with our career services team.

**WHAT STUDENTS WANT**

Top reasons for choosing to come to Illinois include:

- **87%** TO BE ABLE TO GET A BETTER JOB
- **60%** TO PREPARE MYSELF FOR GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL

Additionally, 95% of first year students share that they feel it is important to be thinking about their career path after college.

**WHAT STUDENTS ACHIEVE**

89% of undergraduate degree graduates report that they have a first destination – employment or continuing education - within 6 months of graduation. The average salary for employed graduates in 2016-2017 was $59,494. These outcomes exceed national averages as reported by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

1. CIRP Freshman Survey, Fall 2015.
4. See Illini Success annual reports at http://illinisisuccess.illinois.edu/annual-reports.
5. See http://www.naceweb.org/job-market/graduate-outcomes/first-destination/

“[My career coach] was extremely helpful and reassuring. I feel much more confident in what I want to do now and feel that I can accomplish the goals I have set. I am definitely going to come back here because I feel welcomed and that any question I have will be answered with kindness and understanding.”

~ Female, Freshman, ACES

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**WHAT STUDENTS EXPERIENCE**

Students who come to The Career Center tell us that our programs and services make a difference. They leave feeling:
WE SERVE ALL STUDENTS

MANY STUDENTS VISIT US OFTEN

38,026 STUDENT CONTACTS

11,529 UNIQUE USERS

44% OF USERS ARE REPEAT VISITORS

ALL ACADEMIC CLASSES

ALL COLLEGES

SIGNATURE SERVICES

2,629 Individual career coaching and health advising appointments

647 Drop-in career advising consultations

4,650 Resume, cover letter, and LinkedIn profile reviews

629 Mock interviews

671 Workshops and outreach events

462 Unique visitors to the Career Closet

442 Employers and graduate and professional schools attending TCC-sponsored career fairs

808 Student interviews facilitated by The Career Center

23,948 Students using Handshake to connect with employers and opportunities

1,578 New accounts in EPICS (Exploring Pathways in Career Success)

111,247 Unique visitors to The Career Center website
DISCOVER YOUR OPTIONS

SELF-EXPLORATION
The foundation of a good career decision is understanding your own interests, skills, values, and strengths. The Career Center helps students understand who they are in the context of their future aspirations.

A SOUND FOUNDATION
Career coaches guide students through self-assessment activities and conversations, to explore interests, skills, and values, and how they connect to majors and careers. This year, 18% of our individual appointments were dedicated to these conversations. We also delivered or contributed to more than 30 workshops and events dedicated to exploration, including Making Your Major Decision, the Opportunities Fair, the Value of Undergraduate Research, and Weston Extravaganza.

ASSESSMENTS & ONLINE RESOURCES
EPICS (Exploring Pathways in Career Success) offers self-guided activities to help students explore their interests, skills, values, and decision making styles. 2,006 EPICS online assessment activities were completed by 1,357 unique users. For those wanting individual guidance, we also offer the Strong Interest Inventory and Myers Briggs Type Inventory interpretations with a career coach.

EXPLORATION CLASSES
The Career Center introduces students across campus to career services through academic classes such as freshman orientation courses like GS 101, career exploration courses like EPSY 220, and major orientation courses like IB 292 Careers in Biology.

EDUCATION AND CAREER OPTIONS
At our core, The Career Center educates students about the many education and career pathways that are available to them. Here are just a few of the exciting opportunities that students experienced this past year:

PIZZA & PROFESSIONALS LUNCH SERIES
This series connects students with professionals from popular career fields to discuss their career paths and experiential learning opportunities. This year, 167 students came together to explore topics such as Careers in Human Resources, Entrepreneurship (Be Your Own Boss) and Internships in Research Park.

MINI PRESENTATIONS IN PREREQUISITE COURSES
Our Pre-Health Advising team visited common prerequisite courses to introduce students to our services and get them on a strong path to preparing for a career in healthcare. We reached approximately 3,500 students – a 200% increase over last year!

GLOBAL CAREER SERIES
This series is designed to introduce students to international career options. Topics included Job Search in Canada, Internships Abroad, Teaching Abroad, and Careers at United Nations and International Organizations. 392 students attended.

ILLINOISTCC ON REDDIT
REDDIT is the newest addition to our social media portfolio. We’re there to offer support and encouraging words when students post career-related questions. We also offer discussion board posts such as: No Internship? No Problem! and Tell Us About A Time You Messed Up in an Interview, which was kicked off with responses from our own career coaching staff!

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GET EXPERIENCE

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

CAREER READINESS

The Career Center provides a leading role on campus in helping students understand what it means to be “career ready” and taking steps to get there. This year, we initiated conversations with University Dining about embedding career readiness competencies into student job descriptions. We also worked with advertising students and the career services community to develop a marketing campaign (#TheWayYouSayIt) to raise awareness about how “everyday” experiences contribute to career readiness. The campaign will officially launch in Fall 2018.

EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES

JOB SHADOW PROGRAM

Students got an inside look at organizations and career opportunities with our Job Shadow Program. 53 unique job shadow opportunities were offered during winter and summer breaks.

ILLINI SUCCESS FUN FACT

88% of Illinois bachelor’s degree graduates participate in experiential learning, like internships, assistantships, study abroad, and volunteering. Upon graduation, 1 in 3 of those students receive full-time job offers from their experiential learning activities.

GETTING CONNECTED

LAS IN CU | LOCAL INTERNSHIP FAIR

In this collaborative event, 149 students came together with 28 local organizations to learn about experiential learning opportunities in the Champaign-Urbana area. 90% of student participants shared that they planned to follow up with between 1 – 4 organizations after the event.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN HANDSHAKE

This year 3,292 unique organizations posted 11,197 internships via Handshake, Illinois’ campus-wide recruiting platform.

DID YOU KNOW?

Illinois students who complete an internship express higher leadership efficacy, more growth in complex cognitive skills during college, and higher goal-directed agency, compared to peers who do not experience internships.

1 2018 Multi-Institution Study of Leadership, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School Outcomes Report
2 See Illini Success 2016-2017 campus-wide annual report at http://illinisuccess.illinois.edu/annual-reports/

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AT THE CAREER CENTER

More than 60 undergraduate and graduate students gained paraprofessional experiences at The Career Center in a wide variety of opportunities such as:

UNDERGRADUATE CAREER SERVICES PARAPROFESSIONALS

Reaching 6,400 students through workshops, events, and reviews of resumes, cover letters, and LinkedIn profiles

INFORMATION DESK STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Providing excellent customer service, assisting visitors within our Career Resource Center

GRADUATE STUDENT PARAPROFESSIONALS

Serving 4,502 students through career drop-in advising, workshops, mock interviews, and reviews of resumes, cover letters, and personal statements

LARSEN GRANT FOR RESEARCH IN CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Funding 4 students conducting 3 academic research projects related to career development.

Learn how to complement your academic work with practical, hands-on experience
TELL YOUR STORY

The Career Center provides support every step of the way as students develop job search documents, graduate and professional school applications, and other personal narratives.

REFINING YOUR NARRATIVE
What is a personal and professional brand? We provided a space for students to connect and share their branding ideas in our “Brand Yourself” social media campaign. Watch for this work to expand next year, with professional branding videos highlighting our own Illini community. Coming soon!

CRAFTING YOUR NARRATIVE
The Career Center offers numerous workshops and programs, as well as individual coaching, to help students craft the professional stories they want to share. Here are some highlights from the past year.

TELLING YOUR STORY

TRANSLATING YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCES
Illinois students participate in more than 150 study abroad programs in 45 countries. This interactive workshop, hosted in cooperation with the Illinois Abroad office, helps returnees reflect on the skills that they developed and communicate transferrable skills they will use for a lifetime.

CAREER FAIR PREP WORKSHOPS
The Career Center offered 31 career fair preparation workshops to 547 attendees, helping them build skills and confidence for a variety of events including the Illini Career & Internship Fair, Educator’s Job Fair and LAS in CU Internship Fair, and many more.

BRAND YOURSELF
What is a personal and professional brand?

LEARN HOW TO EXPRESS YOUR SKILLS, EXPERIENCES, AND PURPOSE
GETTING PREPARED

WHAT TO WEAR
The Career Center helps students feel confident and look their best for professional engagements. This year we redeveloped our Dress for Success educational materials, using gender-inclusive language and examples, designed to help students navigate expectations related to “professional” and “business casual” attire. Additionally, 462 unique students sought free, gently-used, professional clothing from the Career Closet.

HOW TO CONNECT
Students build career networks and connections, as well as confidence, in our award-winning programs Diversity & Inclusion Networking Exchange (D.I.N.E. and 71 participants), International Illini Networking in Chicago (87 participants), and The Women’s Career Institute.

ETIQUETTE DINNER
The Career Center offered an etiquette dinner, in cooperation with the Honors Living Learning Community. This event brought 77 students together with employers from eight organizations to learn about dining etiquette and practice professional networking.

ON CAMPUS & AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

HANDSHAKE
The Career Center led the launch of Handshake@Illinois, a new campus-wide recruiting platform that connects students to opportunities on campus and beyond. This year, 23,948 students used Handshake to access 43,868 opportunities posted by 8,903 employers. The student-friendly platform is easy to navigate, provides personalized recommendations based upon machine learning, and allows students to share their profiles with their peers. Career services events and workshops are also built in to provide support along the way.

CAREER FAIRS
This year, five career fairs coordinated by The Career Center provided 2,274 students with an opportunity to connect with 438 employers and graduate or professional schools. These events let students put their best foot forward and make a great impression with a wide variety of representatives in a focused time frame.

ON-CAMPUS RECRUITING AT THE CAREER CENTER
The Career Center’s Interview Suite provides a central space for students from all majors to connect with employers. This year, 76 organizations conducted 808 interviews for internships and full-time positions in this space. Additionally, representatives from 32 graduate and health professions schools connected with applicants in this space.

PEACE CORPS
Illinois is consistently recognized as a top Peace Corps institution. For more than ten years, The Career Center has supported a grant-funded, in-house Peace Corps recruiter. This year the recruiter conducted over 108 office hours, delivered 54 presentations, and 33 drop-in meetings. More than 34 Illinois students completed applications for Peace Corps service this year.

Learn to pursue your career choices
SERVICE TO PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS

EXPLORE
The Health Career Chronicle weekly newsletter shares opportunities to explore careers in healthcare and information on how to become a competitive applicant to health-related professional programs.

PREPARE
- The Health Related RSO Fair connects students pursuing health professions to groups matching their career interests. This year, 103 students and 17 student organizations participated.
- The Graduate & Professional School Fair provides opportunities to explore graduate and professional programs from across the country. This year, participants included 740 students and 91 institutions representing 1,689 degree programs.

APPLY
- Application Bootcamp is your one-stop shop for all things application, covering school selection, personal statements, and navigating the common application system. We also offer workshops on the application process and personal statement writing. Nearly 90 students participated in our Application Bootcamp this year. Additionally, we provided online reviews of 162 health personal statements.
- We connect students to admission representatives, information sessions, panels, and "Deans Nights" so they can interact with a variety of schools. This year we hosted representatives from medical, dental, pharmacy and optometry programs.

SERVICE TO INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

MEDICAL SCHOOL APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE HIGHLIGHTS
In the 2017 application cycle, 59% of Illinois applicants were accepted to at least one MD (allopathic) or DO (osteopathic) medical school. This is a 6% increase over last year. 85% of applicants used services from The Career Center.

The Career Center provides dedicated services to our international students to help them become career ready for opportunities around the globe. This year, more than 700 students participated in over 30 workshops and events addressing topics such as immigration, job and internship searches in the U.S. and abroad, and International Career Meetups. Here are a few highlights:

- The CC-I program, designed to help international students become more competitive job and internship candidates, served 135 students this year. Program assessment efforts demonstrate that students experience increased career efficacy and tangible career search results.

- "I got several interviews more than before... It’s definitely because I participated in this program... When I talk to recruiters, I’m more confident, so I’m not nervous anymore." - CC-I Participant, 1 year after program

INTERNATIONAL CAREER FESTIVAL
The International Career Festival was a day-long career event for international students, co-hosted by The Career Center and other campus career services offices. It included career competitions on elevator pitches, resumes and LinkedIn profiles, educational workshops, and networking with employers. 111 students attended, with 25 leaders of international student clubs serving as volunteers.

INTERNATIONAL ILLINI NETWORKING IN CHICAGO
This annual networking event connects current international students with international alumni who are now employed in Chicago. This year, 87 students met with 30 alumni over three rounds of networking to learn about industry trends, recruiting practices, and networking strategies. Participants are encouraged to arrange follow-up meetings with the alumni.
CAMPUS SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

The Career Center is a hub for career services activity across the campus. We partner with faculty, staff and administrators, student organizations, employers, and graduate and professional school representatives to provide high quality, well-coordinated services and resources. Together, we support students with knowledge and tools needed to effectively explore majors, make career decisions, and seek post-graduate opportunities.

Here are some of the key campus-wide initiatives that we have led or significantly contributed to this past year.

DON’T CANCEL THAT CLASS

Don’t Cancel That Class raises faculty and staff awareness of our presentation request process. Through New Faculty Orientation and e-Week, we advertise presentations that can be delivered during any class period – for example when a professor may be traveling due to an academic conference. This year, presentations were delivered to all nine undergraduate colleges, reaching 3,818 students.

CAREER SERVICES COUNCIL

The Career Services Council (CSC) connects career services professionals campus-wide to advocate for the value and importance of career services in the development of career-ready graduates. This year, we reinvigorated the community with a transition to quarterly full-team meetings, along with opportunities for individual contribution through sub-committee participation and leadership. Themes discussed throughout the year included sharing innovative practices, responding to disruptions, and fostering a culture of collaboration and support. External perspectives were gathered from a presentation of Universum data and a visit to Chicagoland employers, Newly Weds Foods and PwC.

HANDSHAKE LAUNCH

The Career Center provided leadership for the campus transition to Handshake @ Illinois, a new career services management system with a modern interface powered by artificial intelligence, and access to a wider breadth of employers and opportunities. Nearly 9,000 employers from around the world (82% increase compared to last year) posted 43,867 opportunities (165% increase), and 23,947 students have already used the system. We have set national records in our first year!

PRE-HEALTH COMMUNITY

The Pre-Health Advising Team serves the campus by sharing trends relating to admissions to health professions programs. We hold two Advisor Update sessions each year and meet individually with academic advisors to provide up-to-date information and best practices to help Illinois students be competitive applicants. We are frequently contacted by advisors and faculty for information and support in their advising duties, classroom presentations, and curriculum development.
The Career Center leads the Illini Success initiative*, which gathers career-related information from bachelor’s degree recipients. This campus-wide survey provides insights that can help current students consider majors, explore career options, and plan their next steps.

**DESTINATIONS SECURED**
Within six months of graduation, Illinois students report securing a first destination at similar or higher rates than national averages. While the majority of Illinois bachelor’s degree graduates chose employment, continuing education is also a popular choice. Note that Illinois also has a lower percentage of graduates still seeking their next steps than national averages.

**AVERAGE SALARY**
Average salaries reported by full-time employed Illinois graduates have consistently been higher than those reported in national averages. This holds true for the overall institutional average, as well as for many individual fields of study.

**AWARD WINNING CAREER CENTER**
The Career Center is locally, regionally, and nationally recognized for excellence. Congratulations to our team members who were acknowledged this year for the difference they make in the lives of students, and in furthering the field of career development.

**UN YEONG PARK**
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CAREER DEVELOPMENT
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
For exemplary service to international students on the University of Illinois campus and beyond.

**EDEN HAYCRAFT**
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For exemplary service to the Asian American university community at the University of Illinois.

**JULIA PANKE MAKELA**
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Asian American Cultural Center
Outstanding staff award for exemplary service to the Asian American university community at the University of Illinois.

**JOHN STEELE GRANT AWARD**
Midwest Association of Colleges and Employers
Funding awarded to support and encourage new research in career planning and college recruiting.

**HIGH FIVE” GRATITUDE AWARD**
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For exemplary work beyond expected job requirements and demonstrating the six core attributes: teamwork; leadership; resourcefulness; innovation; attitude; focus.

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THE CAREER CENTER’S PROJECT TEAMS

Get to know our team members online at careercenter.illinois.edu/staff-directory

CAREER EDUCATION
Helping students develop career decision-making and management skills that they will apply throughout their lifetime.

EMPLOYER CONNECTIONS
Facilitating connections between students and employers, creating opportunities throughout the Illinois experience.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & RESOURCE CENTER
Providing state-of-the-art career development resources, information, and services to students.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP
Connecting The Career Center to campus initiatives, advocating for the value and importance of career education, and ensuring our work is well-aligned with broader institutional strategic goals.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS & GRADUATE SCHOOL PREPARATION
Helping students navigate academic and career choices, to be optimally ready to pursue post-graduate education.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CAREER DEVELOPMENT
Helping international students make the most of their global educational experience, as they prepare for professional success.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Building relationships with students, while providing educational messaging and informing students about available resources, services and events.

ASSESSMENT & RESEARCH
Enhancing career experiences and outcomes of students through studies that inform practice, enhance understanding of program value, and encourage continuous improvement.

CAREER SERVICES COMMUNITY
Enhancing the breadth and depth of career development programs and services for the benefit of all students by leveraging the expertise, resources, and commitment of career services and student affairs professionals, as well as academic partners across campus.