July 13, 2017

Dear Mercerians and CCPD Supporters,

I am delighted to share highlights from the 2016-2017 year as well as exciting changes underway!

1. As of July 1, the Office of Career Management (Atlanta and RACs) and Office of Career Services (Macon) has merged into one department now called the Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD). Our 8 CCPD staff members will continue to serve the Atlanta, Douglas, Henry, and Macon campuses as well as our distance learners and alumni.

2. Our new mission and vision will guide CCPD as we move forward.
   a. VISION: We aspire to equip and empower all Mercerians to thrive in the lifelong process of career and professional development.
   b. MISSION: Our career development experts prepare students to succeed in work and life by providing customized, innovative and comprehensive career resources.

3. Handshake has replaced BEARLink as our platform where students can connect to employers for career and internships opportunities. All students and alumni are encouraged to activate their account at mercer.joinhandshake.com. In the first 40 days of implementation, we have connected with more than 1000 employers with 611 jobs currently posted and adding approximately 25 new jobs each business day. Students were invited to join the system on June 30th and in just 10 days, student engagement in the platform has been phenomenal with 274 students and alumni logging into the system and 68 submitting resumes for review by our staff. Overall, we are extremely pleased with the implementation of this new platform and look forward to a strong future of engaging students, alumni, and employers with this resource. If you have employer contacts, please share those with us by contacting Stefanie Swanger at swanger_s@mercer.edu so we can get them set up to engage our students and alumni in Handshake.

4. Our website (career.mercer.edu) has a fresh new look with a wealth of resources for students, alumni, faculty, families, and employers. If you are aware of a great career-related resource that we could add to our website, especially discipline-specific ones, please share it with us at CCPD-Atlanta@mercer.edu.

5. Faculty can now request CCPD staff to present on a variety of topics for their courses that can be tailored to their specific course. Requests should be submitted at career.mercer.edu/faculty.

6. During the 2016-2017 year, we served 1970 students and 177 alumni through individual services (counseling, resume review, job search support, etc.). We engaged 758 employers. We held 46 on-campus career events (career fairs, headshots, class presentations, etc.) with 1281 attendees (students, alumni, etc.). 84.7% of 2016 Mercer graduates were employed or enrolled in graduate school within 6 months of graduation. 70% of 2016 Mercer graduates participated in an internship during their time at Mercer.

7. In partnership with the SGA, Cindy Strowbridge, CCPD Director of Employer Relations, launched a new summer 2017 internship housing program with 8 students on the Atlanta campus and 12 students on the Macon campus participating.

For more information and career resources or to contact CCPD staff, please visit us at career.mercer.edu. If you have ideas about how we can improve our services and programs and how we could collaborate to do so, do not hesitate to reach out to me at 678-547-6023 or sweatman_ma@mercer.edu.

CCPD is thankful for all of our partners who make our work to provide career resources to students possible. I look forward to all that 2017-2018 will bring in preparing students to succeed in work and life!

Joyfully,

Maureen Sweatman
Executive Director