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MERRIMACK COLLEGE

RECORD

Adding Value by Preparing Students for Post-College Careers

Money Magazine named Merrimack College one of the **10 “Most Transformative” Colleges** in the United States based on a simple concept: We make students’ futures brighter and more successful.



The Money ranking looked at where students are when they enter school and how well they do after graduation — using metrics such as starting salaries and debt accumulation. It is a strong, independent appraisal of what we do at the College, and a validation of the investments we have made in student success, including academics.

The O’Brien Center for Career Development prepares students for that post-diploma world, with innovative and effective programs such as the Professional Development Retreats, in fall and spring. These retreats bring some of our best students to a two-day series of workshops with alumni who are at the pinnacle of their careers for discussions and how-to seminars covering all aspects of finding a job and getting ahead in their chosen fields.

This year, the O’Brien Center re-engineered our Warriors at Work program with first-year students in four majors, who have begun preparing for co-op jobs and internships to get that needed head start on the working world (you can all the details below). Importantly, faculty are deeply involved in Warriors at Work, not only providing a solid academic base for student advancement but also calling on their personal and professional wisdom to help create a seamless program of career advising.

Our ability to explain so clearly why and how we help young men and women get a head start — with a strong foundation of academics and values, practical experience with cutting-edge technologies and personally tailored guidance on moving ahead in the world of work — continues to be the bedrock of our success. You will see and hear that from prospective students and their families at our next Open House, on Oct. 20, and you will hear it even more strongly at Commencement, from the young graduates who are not only eager but well-prepared to move up in the world.

Thank you for all you do, every day.

Best,
Chris

Warriors at Work Aims to Help Students with Early Planning

The O'Brien Center for Career Development has launched the Warriors at Work program this year to help students, starting in their freshman year, begin preparing for their post-college professional careers.

One hundred sixty-five freshmen who declared majors in accounting, communications, civil engineering and criminology were automatically enrolled in the program. The college plans to expand the program next year with the goal that eventually all students will be enrolled.



"It's an institutional mission that is looking to amplify career readiness and get our students ready for college-provided internships and co-ops in their sophomore and junior years," said Jay Caporale, vice president for corporate and foundation engagement in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

Many of Merrimack's alumni want to give back to their alma mater and are getting involved in the program to help students by offering professional guidance and sharing experiences, Caporale said. Warriors at Work provides an opportunity to embrace the successes alumni have had and share with them the recent growth on campus, including the construction of Crowe Hall and the Arcidi Center.

Caporale and Warriors at Work Program Manager Andrea Finn are working with deans, department chairs and faculty in a layered effort to provide professional development opportunities, including internships and co-ops. They will be offering site visits, mentoring, lessons on networking, and the appropriate ways to leave a social network footprint, as well as teaching why that all matters.

Throughout higher education, students are taking internships and co-ops earlier than ever, said associate professor Jake Turner, chair of the Communications and Media Department.

"The core of Warriors at Work is to enhance the student's academic experience with a developmental and integrated approach to career preparation," Caporale said. "While departments and schools have created effective ways to support their students' career development and the O'Brien Center for Career Development has grown in stature and scope in recent years, this is a good time to identify opportunities to be more intentional in coordinating, and thereby amplifying all of our efforts."

The site visits that are planned this year are wonderful for motivating students, Turner said. Students interested in media careers can go on site visits to television studios in Boston and see the people they admire and want to emulate working in their trades.

"Their eyes light up and they talk about it for weeks. You can tell it's one of those things in college that got them excited," Turner said.

Panel discussions with experts in different careers opportunities to share their stories and build connections with students.

"All of a sudden you start building a net that will become your network," Turner said.

Merrimack College on a Roll



President Christopher Hopey inspects the soon-to-be-debuted mobile addition to Merrimack's array of dining options. Watch for for the Food Truck at Homecoming!

Reminder: Homecoming is Oct. 26-27

A record number of Warrior alumni, families and friends are expected from near and far to celebrate all things Merrimack during Homecoming weekend, Oct. 26-28.

The slate of events is will keep everyone busy from Friday afternoon through Saturday evening. For the full schedule and tickets to athletic events, see www.merrimack.edu/homecoming.

Anyone who wants a big-picture view of everything happening on campus can follow along on social media @merrimackalumni. Photographs taken during the weekend can be shared on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter with the hashtag #BacktotheMack.

Coming up

Oct. 25 — Faculty and staff celebration of Together for Good
• 4 p.m., MPR

Oct. 26-27 - Homecoming Weekend

Nov. 1 — Feast of All Saints Mass
• 12:30 p.m., Chapel of Our Mother of Good Counsel

Nov. 1 — "Beyond Glory" with Stephen Lang
• 7:30 p.m., Rogers Center

Nov. 2 — Feast of All Souls Mass
• 12:30 p.m., TBD

Nov. 6 — Honoring Our Veterans
• 10 a.m., MPR

