VISION STATEMENT

Our office will be recognized as a leader in the State University System in supporting students to graduate in four years and obtaining employment immediately after graduation.

MISSION STATEMENT

FGCU Career Development Services is dedicated to supporting the mission of the University and the Division of Student Affairs by promoting student learning and development and helping students fulfill their career expectations. Within this context, we assist students in developing and implementing career education and employment plans and decisions. Our services are designed to help students:

- Develop self-knowledge related to career choice and work performance by identifying, assessing, and understanding their competencies, interests, values, and personal characteristics.
- Obtain educational and occupational information to aid their career and educational planning and to develop their understanding of the world of work.
- Select personally suitable academic programs and experiential opportunities that optimize future educational and employment options.
- Gain experience through student activities, community service, student employment, research projects, cooperative education, internships, and other opportunities.
- Link with alumni, employers, professional organizations, and others who will provide opportunities to develop professional interests and competencies, integrate academic learning with work, and explore future career possibilities.
- Prepare to find suitable employment by developing job-search skills, effective interviewing skills, and an understanding of the fit between their competencies and both occupational and job requirements.
- Gain entry into an appropriate educational, graduate, or professional program.
- Prepare to manage their careers after graduation.

FGCU Career Development Services is also committed to building long-term relationships with employers to assist them in their recruitment efforts.

VALUES STATEMENT

As a member of the Division of Student Affairs, we believe:

- Individuals grow and develop in unique ways.
- Learning occurs throughout the entire University experience.
- There is value in diversity of ideas, beliefs and culture.
- A strong community is committed to mutual respect, collaboration and care.
- A healthy lifestyle enhances success in learning, life and career.
- The quality of the University experience is determined by personal choices.
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS 2017-18

- Significant Significant Student Usage
  - 1,402 individual career advising appointments
  - 130 career presentations to groups (class and student clubs)
  - 1,540 students registered in MyPlan.com (career exploration resource)
  - 80% increase in follow-up appointments after implementing relationship advising

- High Degree of Student Satisfaction
  - Students experienced a 63% improvement in their ability to handle career issues they came to discuss with a career advisor
  - Students rated advisors helpfulness an average 4.87 on a 5-point scale
  - 71% of students said their expectations were exceeded in their advising appointments
  - 86% of recent grads rated job search preparedness as very well to extremely prepared
  - 92% of recent grads rated the FGCU Career Center very helpful to extremely helpful

RELATIONSHIP ADVISING

During the Fall 2017 semester, Career Development Services implemented Relationship Advising and a formalized process for following up with students. Due to this, the department saw an 80% increase of repeat student visits from the year before. Relationship advising is defined as a student-centered, holistic approach to advising students through their personal and career development, consisting of a commitment to helping students identify and explore career interests, provide individualized support, share responsibility in co-creating realistic goals and setting milestones, and consists of a relationship defined by mutual trust and respect.

Relationship advising, at its core, is described as an on-going process, where advisors monitor student progress and are proactive in maintaining contact throughout the student's development.

SOAR IN FOUR

FGCU launched Soar in 4 to provide students additional incentive to manage the path to a 4-year degree as well as to cultivate a campus culture that values graduating on time. In order to qualify for the program which provides students reimbursement for their first year of tuition, students must visit with Career Development Services, choose a major by the end of their freshmen year, complete an internship, and gain employment in the state of Florida within 6 months of graduating while making at least $25,000 annually. Our office is proud to have hosted 19 Soar in 4 qualifying events and reach as student population of over 2,700.
**SOAR 4 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

- **Part-time Job and Internship Fair:** 76 employers, 534 students
- **U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering Career & Internship Expo:** 34 employers, 137 students
- **Resort & Hospitality Management Job Fair (3):** 43 employers, 650 students
- **Business Career & Internship Fair:** 72 employers, 432 students
- **Senior Career Week:** 39 students, 8 workshops/events
- **Law School Fair:** 57 schools, 64 students
- **Teacher Recruitment Fair (2):** 36 employers, 209 students
- **Tech Match:** 28 employers, 96 students
- **Recruitment Wednesdays:** 49 employers, 19 mini-table events
- **PR and Communications Job & Internship Fair:** 46 employers, 183 students
- **Entrepreneurship Expo:** 41 participants, 349 students
- **LCOB Employer Express (4):** 20 employers, 134 students

**TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED: 2767**

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**WEB-BASED SERVICES**

**Eagle Career Link**
FGCU’s Career Management System

- Job and internship listing system
  - Over 15,000 registered students, 8,000 alumni
  - 9,500 registered employers since inception in 2005
  - Thousands of jobs and internships posted each year

- Over 100,000 visitors and 600,000 page views each year

**MyPlan.com**
Career exploration and research website
- 1,500 student registrations annually

**Social Media Presence**
STUDENT ADVISING

Career Development Services provides individual advising to students on a wide range of topics, including:

- Assessments
- Campus employment
- Career choice
- Cover letter writing
- Employer research
- Graduate school
- Informational interviewing
- Internship search
- Job Search
- Job shadowing
- Major choice
- Networking
- Occupational research
- Personal statements
- Portfolios
- Resume writing
- Salary negotiation
- Service programs

TOTAL STUDENT ADVISING APPOINTMENTS: 1,402

STUDENT FEEDBACK AND COMMENTS

"I believe every student should visit Career Development Services throughout their college career. I have gained so much knowledge and many opportunities by meeting with a Career Advisor. I am more confident when I attend interviews, and I am amazed at the many things I learned I can do with my major. The Career Services staff have been very welcoming. With their help, I know I will achieve great things in my career."

-- Sindia Joseph, Junior majoring in Public Health

EMPLOYER RELATIONS

"Enterprise Holdings truly values the partnership that we have with Florida Gulf Coast University, as they are our greatest resource for referrals here in Southwest Florida. FGCU, in particular Career Services, understands the importance of allowing Enterprise to have face to face interactions with their students throughout the year."

Laura Scott, Talent Acquisition Specialist, Enterprise Holdings

"The FGCU Career Services Department has been a valuable partner in our pursuit of talented, new employees. The Department’s attention to detail and willingness to listen to our staffing needs has been greatly appreciated."

Scott Mairn, Vice President of Sales & Marketing, Pulte-Group - South Florida Division

2018 BUSINESS CAREER & INTERNSHIP FAIR

Overall rating of Fair

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96% OF EMPLOYERS PLAN TO ATTEND AGAIN
GRADUATING STUDENT OUTCOMES: 2017 - 2018

Practicum and Internship Opportunities

- 60% of students completed an internship before they graduated at companies such as: Arthrex, Allyn International, Charlotte Correctional Institute, and Department of Children and Families
- 37% of students completed a second internship
- 36% of students found full-time employment through their internship

Professional Advancement Post Graduation

- 85% of students accepted or began full-time employment before graduating at companies such as: Gartner, Enterprise Holdings, Lee Health, Walt Disney Company, Lee County Sheriff’s Office and Hilton Naples
- 88% of students are working in a position related to their major
- 17.5% of students plan to start a business in the next 5 years
- The average starting salary of 2017 - 2018 graduates is $38,480 (Fall) and $47,928 (Spring)

Continuing Education

- 12% of students were accepted into a graduate program prior to finishing their Bachelor’s
- 56.5% of students plan on continuing their education in the future
- 24% of students plan to pursue a PhD and 18% plan to attend Law or Medical School

CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF

Reid Lennertz | Director of Career Services

Serving as the Director since 2002, Reid has built the career services operation “from the ground up.” Between 2004 – 2014, FGCU ranked #1 in the state university system of Florida every year but one for highest percentage of bachelor degree candidates employed and/or continuing their education within one year of graduation. Before joining FGCU, Reid served as the Recreation Director for The Ritz-Carlton, Naples. In that role, he was selected from a worldwide pool of the hotel company’s top managers to be a member of the Opening Team for The Ritz-Carlton hotels in South Korea, St. Thomas, and Cancun, Mexico.

Reid has a B.S. Degree from Westfield State University, as well as an MBA and M.A in Educational Leadership from Florida Gulf Coast University. He is an Adjunct Instructor in the Lutgert College of Business, and was nominated for the FGCU Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award in 2015. Originally from the Boston area, he has lived in Naples since 1990.

Contact Reid at: rlennert@fgcu.edu or (239) 590-7960

Rose Fuller | Asst. Director of Career Services

Rose Fuller brings over 10 years’ experience counseling students and alumni of all ages, in addition to working for over 10 years in sales, marketing, and management for small businesses and Fortune 500 companies. Rose recently relocated to Southwest Florida from the Chicago area, previously working at Elmhurst College and Loyola University Chicago. Rose earned her Masters of Education in Human Services and Counseling from DePaul University in Chicago as well as her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Rose is a member of National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) and National Career Development Association (NCDA).

Contact Rose at: rfuller@fgcu.edu or (239) 590-1356

Contact Career Development Services at: careercenter@fgcu.edu or (239) 590-7946
Mary Larkin | Coordinator of Career Events and Marketing
Mary received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations from FGCU and brings with her 15+ years of extensive work experience in event planning and customer service. Prior to working at FGCU, Mary worked for the Southwest Florida Symphony as an event coordinator and the Marketing Director. She also had her own catering business, specializing in dinner parties and special events. She thrives in a fast paced atmosphere and is organized and highly motivated. Mary is a member of the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). She is active in the community and has lived in Fort Myers since 1999.
Contact Mary at: marlarkin@fgcu.edu or (239) 590-7926

Rafael Villamil | Career Advisor
Rafael holds a Master of Education with a focus on Student Personnel in Higher Education from the University of Florida and a Bachelors of Art in Theater with a Minor in Psychology from Wittenberg University in Springfield, OH. Before joining FGCU, Rafael served as the Graduate Assistant for the Multicultural Student Center at Santa Fe College, interned with both the Student Activities Office and the Residence Life Office at the University of Texas at El Paso, and was a Residence Hall Director for the State University of New York at Oswego.

Prior to starting his career in Student Affairs, Rafael garnered experiences in a variety of fields including serving in the US Navy Reserves, both in the enlisted ranks and the officer ranks, as well as holding a variety of positions in the theater, retail, and food service industries.
Contact Rafael at: rvillamil@fgcu.edu or (239) 745-4258

Jackie Kulls | Career Advisor
Jackie holds a M.Ed in Higher Education Leadership from Florida Atlantic University and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from the State University of New York in Oswego. Originally from Saratoga Springs, New York, Jackie began her start in Higher Education with Bryant & Stratton College. Earning a first-of-its-kind position as a combined New Student Academic Advisor & Career Services Representative, Jackie was responsible for advising students entering college as well as assisting students in obtaining employment during the semester they graduated. Before joining FGCU, Jackie worked as a Graduate Assistant for the Career Center at Florida Atlantic University where she helped students create resumes, cover letters, conduct job/internship searches, and occupational research during same-day career advising. Jackie is a member of the National Career Development Association (NCDA), Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education (NASPA), Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS) and the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE).
Contact Jackie at: jkulls@fgcu.edu or 239-590-7986

Keashla Marengo Reyes | Career Advisor
Keashla has been working in a university setting since 2008. As an undergraduate student, she worked at a Career Development Center where she discovered her passion for higher education and career advising. Today, she holds two degrees from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources Management and a Master of Education in Counseling and Student Affairs with a focus in College Student Affairs.

Throughout her graduate career, she gained professional experience in career coaching, academic coaching, and multicultural affairs. After graduate school, she moved across the country to the San Francisco Bay Area where she worked as an Academic Coach and Instructor at the Academy of Art University in SF.

In January of 2017, she moved to Fort Myers, Florida and became the first Alumni Career Specialist at FGCU. She then seized the opportunity to become a Career Advisor where she can provide career services to both students and alumni. She is a member of the Professional Association of Resume Writers and Career Coaches (PARWC) and National Career Development Association (NCDA).
Contact Keashla at kmarengoreyes@fgcu.edu or 239-745-4219
CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERVICES STAFF

- Nichole Hitchner | Career Advisor

Nichole Hitchner is a National Certified Counselor (NCC). She holds a Master of Arts in Counseling Services and Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Psychology from Rider University in New Jersey. Before joining FGCU, Nichole served as the Graduate Assistant for Career Development and Success in the School of Education at Rider University and as a Graduate Intern in the Office of Leadership at The College of New Jersey. Nichole also has experience with teaching at the early childhood and elementary levels and guidance counseling at the secondary education level. Nichole is a member of the Middle Atlantic Career Counseling Association, New Jersey Career Center Consortium, National Association of Colleges and Employers, and Chi Sigma Iota, the international honor society for counseling students, counselor educators, and professional counselors.

Contact Nichole at: nhitchner@fgcu.edu or 239-745-4207

- Andrea Butler - Front Desk
- Andrea Buchholz - Front Desk
- Stephanie Centeno - Front Desk
- Justine Cusimano - Front Desk
- Veda Kaya - Front Desk & Career Ambassador
- Megan Wells - Front Desk
- Octavio Limpias - Front Desk
- Paloma Oddone - Career Ambassador & Front Desk
- De’Chelle Plummer - Career Ambassador
- Celeste Polin - Career Ambassador
- Emily Casey - Career Ambassador & Social Media
- Katie Edwards - Career Ambassador
- Adriana Lopez - Career Ambassador

Career Development Services
Cohen Center - First Floor
10501 FGCU Boulevard South, Fort Myers, FL 33965-6565
(The Career Center is located next to the Eagle I.D. office)

Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Phone: (239) 590-7946 | Email: CareerCenter@fgcu.edu
Website: studentservices.fgcu.edu/careers