Dear families of our newest students,

Welcome to the Kalamazoo College community! We in the Center for Career and Professional Development look forward to supporting and encouraging your student’s personal and professional growth over the next four years and beyond. From one-on-one career counseling appointments to extensive professional networks of alumni mentors, we offer the resources your student will need to prepare for success after college.

The college experience offers endless prospects for reflection, growth, and transformation, which lead most students to change their planned majors and career paths over time. As a parent of two current college students myself, I am frequently challenged to trust their evolving interests and plans. I invite you to listen sympathetically and have confidence in your student’s own abilities to discern the right path.

Your student will be offered many opportunities this fall to start thinking about careers. Encourage your student to take advantage of the programs and services outlined in this brochure, and then over winter break listen to what they’ve learned.

We expect your student to take responsibility for his/her career exploration and planning, and we encourage parents to play a supportive role. I am always happy to hear from parents interested in learning more about our offerings and how you might engage constructively in career development efforts here at Kalamazoo College.

Warm regards,

Joan C. Hawxhurst
Director, Center for Career and Professional Development

Will My Student Be Prepared for a Career?
The elements of your student’s K-Plan—rigorous academics including depth and breadth in the liberal arts and sciences, learning through experience, international and intercultural engagement, and independent scholarship—combine to develop exactly the knowledge, skills, and experiences today’s employers seek.

In our most recent graduating class, 91% of reporting graduates seeking employment had secured it by year end. For more information about our graduates’ post-graduate pursuits, see the results of our annual First Destination Survey here:

http://reason.kzoo.edu/ccd/aboutus

How Can Parents Help the CCPD?
We in the Center for Career and Professional Development recognize that parents and family members have considerable career expertise and networks, and we welcome your partnership in our work. There are a number of ways you can help current K students by lending your professional support to the work of the CCPD:

• Answer student questions and offer career advice by joining and participating in the Kalamazoo College Guilds (professional networks housed on LinkedIn)
• Sign up to have a student extern live and work with you for 1-4 weeks next summer, through our Discovery Externship Program
• Offer to supervise a K student intern in your workplace next summer
• Encourage your employer to recruit K students for internships or jobs
• Forward internship and entry-level openings where you work, volunteer, or serve on a board, to career@kzoo.edu, so we can include them in K-Connect, our exclusive job board for K students

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2015 Guide for Families of First-Year Students

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First-Year Forum Career Track: “Career Myths Busted”

During this interactive hour-long session, your student will learn the importance of a flawless résumé, a broad network of professional contacts, and work experience. Attendees will receive tips for using their winter break and their own personal four-year career-planning tool. Your student may attend any one of the following sessions to receive First-Year Forum credit:

- Week One: Thursday, Sept. 17, 4:00 PM
- Week Three: Tuesday, Sept. 29, 11:30 AM
- Week Five: Tuesday, Oct. 13, 11:30 AM
- Week Six: Thursday, Oct. 22, 11:30 AM
- Week Eight: Monday, Nov. 2, 4:00 PM

First-Year Seminar Activities:

Your student’s first-year seminar may include our “Introduction to the CCPD” presentation as well as an optional résumé-writing assignment, both of which are offered by student leaders in the Center for Career and Professional Development.

Professional Development Institute

The annual Professional Development Institute (PDI) is timed to align with Homecoming to engage returning alumni and friends of the College in helping students consider and prepare for “Life after K.” Through reflection and discussion, professional networking, Guild gatherings, mentoring, advising, and more, students and career professionals hone skills and deepen connections necessary for successful post-graduate pursuits.

Your student may take part in the following PDI activities on Friday, October 23:

11:00-11:45 AM Community Reflection: “More in a Lifetime” Alumni Experiences
1:00-4:00 PM “Say Cheese” Professional Photo Appointments (pre-registration required)
2:00-4:00 PM Hornet Huddles: One-on-One Meet-Ups with Alumni Professionals (pre-registration required)
4:30-6:30 PM Connection Reception: Networking Event with Alumni

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