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 your student’s personal and professional growth over the next four years. From one-on-one career coaching 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, and students may change their planned majors and career paths over time. As a parent of two college students, I am frequently challenged to trust their evolving interests and plans. I invite you to listen and have confidence in your student’s own abilities to discern the right path.

Your student will be offered many opportunities to start thinking about careers this fall. You can help by encouraging your student to take advantage of the programs and services outlined in this brochure.

We expect your student to take responsibility for their 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 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, 92% 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:

https://reason.kzoo.edu/ccd/lifeafterk

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 Professional Networking Group on LinkedIn
• 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 promote these opportunities to interested students

For more ways to help, see:

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

2017 Guide for Families of First-Year Students
What should my student do to prepare for “Life After K?”

Your student may not yet have chosen a major, let alone a career. Choosing a professional path is a process, and students progress at different rates of speed. You can help by encouraging your student to:

Get workplace experience. Your student will benefit greatly from a summer internship (or two or three!). Externships and internships allow students to explore future careers while getting hands-on experience. An internship can help build a network of professionals and get your student’s “foot in the door” for a future job opportunity.

Get involved on campus. Leading a club, playing a sport, or organizing a program will show that your student learned to make decisions and solve problems. Participating in extracurricular activities while maintaining a high GPA will demonstrate that your student has the organizational and time management skills employers are seeking.

Build a network. Joining the Kalamazoo College Professional Networking Group on LinkedIn as well as the Career Mentoring Network will give your student access to thousands of supportive alumni professionals interested in offering career advice and connections. On-campus networking events like our “Connection Receptions” offer face-to-face opportunities for your student to meet alumni with similar interests, majors, and aspirations.

Use the CCPD. Our career center staff can prepare your student to interact successfully with future employers. In addition to supporting your student’s choices of major and career direction, a career coach can help find internships, perfect a cover letter and résumé, make alumni introductions, and develop interviewing skills.

FALL 2017 CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

First-Year Forum Career Track: “Career? I just got here!”

During this interactive session with CCPD staff, your student will learn the importance of a professional presence, a broad network of professional contacts, and relevant 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:

- **WeekOne:** Tuesday, September 12, 4:00 PM
- **WeekThree:** Monday, September 25, 11:05 AM
- **WeekFive:** Wednesday, October 11, 11:05 AM
- **WeekSix:** Wednesday, October 18, 7:30 PM
- **WeekEight:** Monday, October 30, 4:00 PM
- **WeekNine:** Monday, November 6, 11:05 AM

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 from the CCPD.

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

Career Success Resources Available to Your Student

Did you know 80 percent of open positions are filled without being advertised publicly? To be a successful candidate, your student will want to build career capital right away by taking advantage of an array of resources that offer connections to jobs, internships, advice, networks, and mentors. Using these resources now will position your first-year student for future career success:

Handshake is an innovative recruiting network that enables 200,000 employers to find college students for all kinds of jobs. Students use simple but powerful search tools to find jobs and internships, including on-campus employment, and they build profiles to customize their experience and stand out when employers search for them. Students will also use Handshake to browse career fairs and sign up for career events.

The Kalamazoo College Professional Networking Group (KPNG) on LinkedIn is an exclusive career-focused community of individuals with K connections. Over 2,000 alumni and parents have joined this LinkedIn group to offer advice, engage in group discussions, share career information, and spread the word about internships and entry-level opportunities.

A new Career Mentoring Network (CMN), powered by Wise, will be available to students beginning in November, offering them a secure database of alumni who have volunteered to assist with career advice and networking. Students browse lists of alumni who are working in fields they want to explore and then request one-on-one phone conversations scheduled and hosted by the platform.