NACE18: The Future of We

What can we do now to prepare for the future?

Following the presentations, and working in groups, participants were challenged to craft a sentence to identify what we can do now to prepare for the future. Those thoughts are captured here. (Add your own sentence: What can we do now to prepare for the future?)

We need to speak the language of employers, researchers, admissions, academics, students and families and be able to translate concerns, priorities, indicators of success so that we can understand each other and build a joint vision for preparing graduates for the future of work.

We can:
- Leverage collaboration on technology to help students tell their stories to engage effectively with employers.
- Help students translate their competencies into effective storytelling to meet the employer needs and address new technologies.

We can transition colleges to a true focus on student success, including better integration with faculty on career readiness and success.

We can embrace our community of career influencers, supports, and thought partners.

We can practice “how empathy” to build, tweak, or continue programs and tools that are scalable, inclusive, 24/7 and valued by all stakeholders.

We can strategically leverage collaboration on technology and innovation so that we can empower students to tell impactful stories that articulate relevant competencies and skills to institutional, community, employer, and work force needs in an adapting economy.

We can embrace changes in technology, skills, and collaborative communication to meet the needs of invested stakeholders and to remain relevant.

We can use technology to engage students from the outset, in order to develop students into professionals employers want and need, with the support and guidance of flexible and competent career development professionals and key stakeholders to the college and university.
Career centers and employer partners can create an opportunity to collaborate and communicate on the changes in both worlds in order to customize the connecting of students to job opportunities. In addition:

- We can connect and collaborate to equip students with the tools and resources they need to navigate a continuously changing career landscape.
- We can expand the definition of “career expert” to include students, faculty, career services, and employers to increase collaboration, communication, and customization.

We must be open to change, impeccable collaborators engaging students and alumni where they are, and “sell” our success stories to fuel this momentum.

We can use data and technology to determine students’ career readiness which in turn will help establish tailored career services.

We can position career services as the thought partner of choice in translating and applying competencies, while empowering campus partners and faculty to create a culture of collaboration and student success.

We can develop methods to guide and support students and employers to effectively problem-solve in order to manage their careers adapting to changing structures.

We can build practical sessions/trainings implementing ways to train students to effectively problem-solve in a variety of contexts to be able to anticipate employer needs, troubleshoot on job issues, and build their career management abilities.

We need to bridge the gap between employers and universities by leveraging technology and fostering collaborative partnerships.

We can stay on top of technology and trends, know the value our office brings, and maximize and communicate that to students.

We can use data and information gathering to remain adaptable in our profession.

We can create a nimble culture focused on adoption of technology of the future by infusing past experiences and defining clear, actionable, impactful, measurable goals and directing daily decision making and relationship building.

We need to develop the capacity to anticipate and prepare for change so that we can lead change versus simply responding.

We can be open and ready for change, remaining flexible and agile while collaborating and building relationships across internal and external partners.

We can create a community of career professionals, recruiters, and faculty to prepare a career readiness mindset...and continue to reassess the evolving needs in a multicultural world. And we can create free thinkers who will not just adapt but will be self-critical and adapt as needed.
We can continuously grow and leverage partnerships, technology, and resources to promote shared interests and create capability in guiding students and alumni through the future of work.

Design a collective, strategic approach among career services, academia, campus recruiting, and business leaders to identify and align curriculum to industry needs.

We can collaborate to break traditional barriers among faculty, employers, students, and career centers while embracing technology to provide fluidity in relationships.

We can use technology for appropriate transactions and to support for students so career professionals and employers can handle engagements and collaborative relationship building as needed.

We can mindfully examine and be aware of data and measurable trends to guide flexibility in use of tech platforms, relationship pieces, and traditional events.

We can develop flexibility to adapt to a changing environment that embraces the concept of innovation and technology.

We can build collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships in the ecosystem that facilities opportunities for students to be equipped for the unique realities of the work world of tomorrow.

We can create opportunities to communicate and collaborate between employers, universities (career services), and students to co-design customizable and applicable tools that remove biases and barriers while preparing stakeholders for success.

We can collaboratively develop strategies to leverage technology to enhance personalized relationships and face-to-face communication.

We can build on university and employer partnerships to promote diversity and skills gaps solutions in order to provide talent for the jobs of tomorrow.

We can embrace change through collaborative engagement and trusting communication to innovate adaptation.

We can strategically collaborate, assess, and design a path with goals and objectives to fulfill stakeholder needs.

Add your own sentence: What can we do now to prepare for the future?

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