

JUNE 2019

NEXUS CENTER FOR APPLIED LEARNING & CAREER DEVELOPMENT



FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE

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NEXUS CENTER?

Tell me more ...



Serving the entire student population of almost 10,000, as well as alumni, the Nexus Center for Applied Learning & Career Development (the “Nexus Center”) integrates applied learning and career development initiatives of Farmingdale State College.



The Nexus Center advances the college’s Strategic Mission of being recognized as a center of excellence in teaching and applied learning, strengthening relationships with the Long Island community and surrounding areas, supporting student progress towards graduation and employment, and encouraging students to apply knowledge and skills gained from traditional classroom settings to real world environments.

Employers and other organizations can connect with students and graduates at FSC, SUNY’s largest college of applied science and technology for opportunities, including jobs and internships throughout all four of our schools: Arts & Sciences; Business; Engineering Technology; Health Sciences.

How did the project begin?

After an administrative restructuring led by college President Dr. John Nader moving the existing career services office from the Student Affairs division into the Academic Affairs division, the Nexus Center of Applied Learning & Career Development was formally launched. By integrating applied learning and career objectives under the purview of Provost Dr. Laura Joseph in the Academic Affairs department, employers are more readily able to engage with FSC to recruit students throughout the academic programs of all four schools of the college for experiential learning and job opportunities.



The faculty governing body voted to include applied learning activities as a requirement for graduation from all baccalaureate degree programs starting in fall 2019. The Nexus Center supports students in meeting the graduation requirement, as well as collaborating with faculty and administrators in offering applied learning opportunities that would satisfy the graduation requirement. The conversations started with the President and Provost and quickly moved to other members of the college community.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES

Integrate applied learning and career development initiatives of Farmingdale State College

Strengthen relationships with the Long Island community and surrounding areas

Support student progress towards graduation and employment

Encourage students to apply knowledge and skills gained from traditional classroom settings to real world environments.

SCOPE OF WORK

WHAT'S THE NITTY-GRITTY?

Students engage with the office through in-person counseling sessions, professional development workshops, Nexus Center sponsored service events, and through online career and applied learning platforms. The Nexus Center serves as a hub for external entities, such as employers, to connect with students and faculty throughout all 4 schools of Farmingdale State College. The Nexus Center offers virtual and on-campus recruiting channels for employers and other organizations to promote and fill their needs.



Faculty are essential to cultivating relationships with employers and other regional organizations to cultivate career and applied learning opportunities and to ensure that those opportunities meet academic standards. The Nexus Center regularly partners with faculty to engage employers in the development of workforce pipelines and academic experiences relevant to their industries. Students are also greatly influenced by the expertise of their faculty in identifying and selecting placements. Students often identify their own internships, based on their individual career aspirations and with input from faculty and counselors, and then vet the final placement with the faculty.

In the semester after the Nexus Center's launch, there was a 20% increase in the number of students seen for career and applied learning information and a 22% increase in number of internship placements in that academic year. In the 2018-2019 academic year, 2,212 students participated in credit-bearing applied learning placements, representing a 48% increase from the 2017-2018 academic year. Employer and student engagement with the office has increased across all areas, including engagement with our online career platform and participation in recruiting events. 11 new courses and 5 co-curricular activities in the areas of community service, undergraduate research and civic engagement, have been developed with the support of the Nexus Center.

Farmingdale State College was awarded Performance Improvement Funding (PIF) through the State University of New York (SUNY) to support the launch of the Nexus Center. With this funding, as well as additional support from the college, the office has been able to add valuable personnel in key roles, including a dedicated Applied Learning Counselor and a Nexus Services Specialist who facilitates marketing and communications. Personnel in the office handle employer and community relations, as well as counseling and events to support student engagement in both applied learning and professional development activities.

Keys to Success

Campus-wide learning outcomes and objectives have been adopted and will be incorporated into academic programs across all schools of the college

The institutional recognition of the importance of student engagement in applied learning, and the endorsement by the President, Provost, faculty and administrators throughout all schools of the college

Hiring a dedicated staff who have expertise in counseling, recruiting and program development is critical

HOW DO EMPLOYERS INTERACT WITH THE CENTER?

To fill JOBS (part-time, full-time, summer, post-grad), Employers from the local community can sign-up for an account on the CareerConnect platform.

While using CareerConnect, employers can:

- Post jobs to students/grads, and receive email notification of applications.
- View and print resumes of applicants.
- Set an expiration date or close the job posting when the position is filled.
- Access the campus virtual resume book to browse resumes of students and grads.

To offer INTERNSHIPS for academic credit by partnering with expert faculty or other Applied Learning opportunities, they can contact the Applied Learning Coordinator.



HOW DO STUDENTS INTERACT WITH THE CENTER?

The Nexus Center works with students to identify and to market themselves for employment opportunities.

Students register for a CareerConnect account online to:

- Schedule an appointment with a Career Counselor to discuss important career-planning questions, learn strategies for making meaningful career decisions, and develop a plan for job searches.
- Submit Resume and Cover Letters for feedback from a Career Counselor.
- View current job and internship postings and apply directly by submitting resumes through the CareerConnect platform.

The Nexus Center also offers:

- Career Readiness Workshops;
- Annual Job Fairs, Technology Fair, Graduate School Fair and other Career-Focused Events;
- Career Assessments (such as the Self Directed Search, Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, and Strong Interest Inventory) which can be useful resources in helping you clarify your career direction.
- Interview Skills Resources:
 - "Big Interview" is an online tool that allows students to participate in mock interviews to prepare for actual interviews.
 - Candid Career provides an inside scoop from industry leaders and professionals by offering an assortment of video interviews.

The Nexus Center helps to place students in real-world Applied Learning experiences related to academic and career goals. By engaging in Applied Learning, you will gain valuable experience which will develop skills, enhance professional networks, and make more attractive candidates for employment.

FSC offers a variety of Applied Learning activities, including internships, clinical placements, practicums, community service, undergraduate research, and study abroad opportunities.

