



Center for Career
Exploration and
Development

LAUNCHING FUTURES



2024-2025
YEAR IN REVIEW

GROWTH AMIDST UNCERTAINTY

By Dave Curry, Director

As our students and recent grads are experiencing one of the most disruptive workforces in history, the 8 staff members and 13 Peer Career Advisors in the Center for Career Exploration & Development have been working with them to help them map out their next steps and find their most ideal internship or first job. With the advancement of AI starting to impact entry level job openings, along with a changing economic outlook and recent federal legislation that has effected several sectors of the job market that our students traditionally pursue, a lot of students and alumni are finding job opportunities to be scarcer than they would like. Fortunately, Ithaca College students and alumni, possess the experience, skills and connections that they need to be successful, and the Career Center is working to help them realize that.

The uncertainty in the job market was mirrored by higher ed, and Ithaca College made a lot of changes this past year to their organizational structure which resulted in The Career Center moving divisions to Academic Affairs. This strategic realignment will allow even greater faculty collaboration and career guidance across campus and more opportunities to prepare our students for the uncertainty ahead.

Despite all the change and uncertainty of the last year, or maybe because of it, CCED was able to engage with more students in 2024-2025 than ever before, with staff appointments topping 1,000 for the first time, as 51% of all current students on campus engaged with our office! Additionally, we launched a game-changing new internship support fund, added Student Employment to our portfolio, and conducted new and innovative programming throughout the year. Every year I wonder how this team will top all they have done, and every year they just do. Here's to impacting even MORE students and alumni in the year to come!

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New IC Career Center Internship Fund Launches



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NEW INTERNSHIP FUND OPENS DOORS

Thanks to the generosity of alumni and community donors, we were able to launch the IC Career Center Internship Fund to support students with financial need conducting unpaid or low-paying internships. In our first year we were able to provide 23 IC students the opportunity to conduct their internships without the burden of low or no pay, or having to worry about food, lodging or transportation costs that may otherwise have inhibited them.

*Isabela Hernandez '27, Intern
with New York State Senator
Lea Webb*



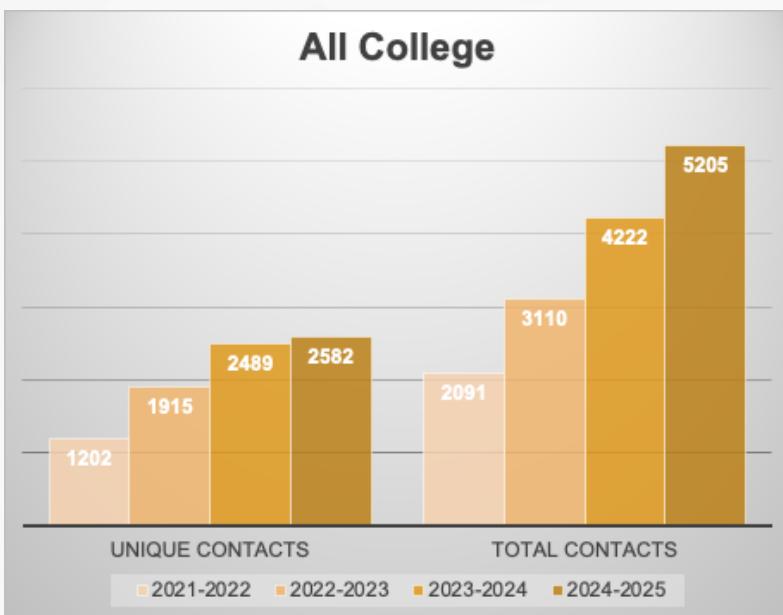
The impact this made on our students is immeasurable in terms of the value of the experiences they had and what it will mean to their future. I am hopeful we can raise even more money to help a greater number of students next year and in the years to come. To learn more about the direct impact the fund had on students this summer, [check out this article](#), and to support the fund for future IC interns, please [visit this link](#).



*Madison Buckley '28,
Intern at the PGA's Dick's
Sporting Goods Open*

CCED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

In the post-pandemic era, The Center for Career Exploration & Development has seen an increase in student engagement each year through a concerted and intentional effort to build relationships with faculty and staff, and grow trust with our students and alumni. We are happy to report that student engagement in EACH school has increased significantly over the last 4 years, with some schools seeing a nearly 200% increase in that time!



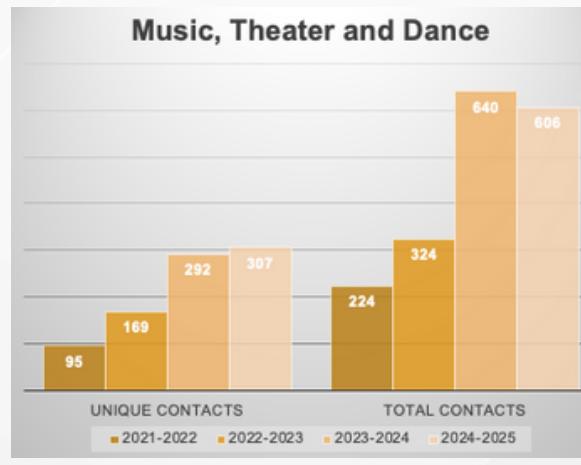
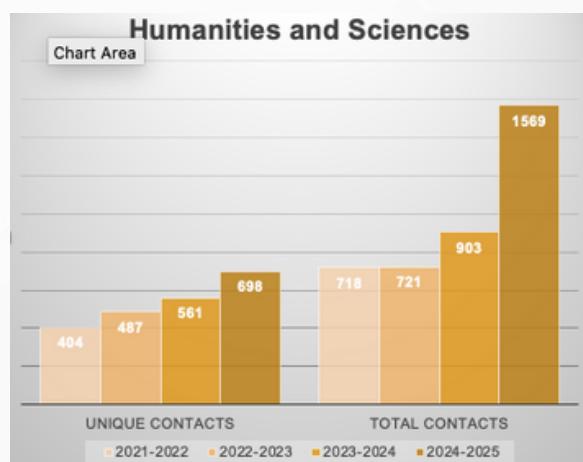
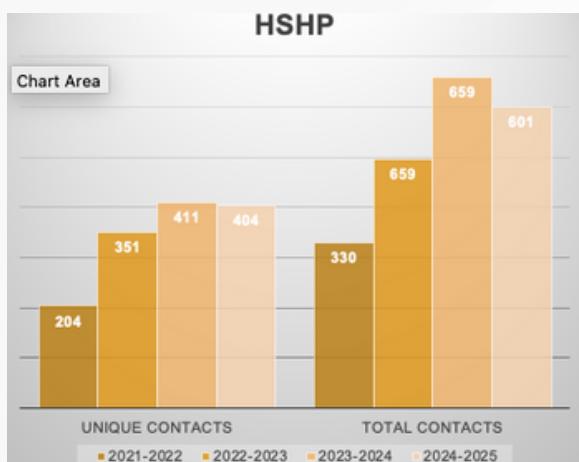
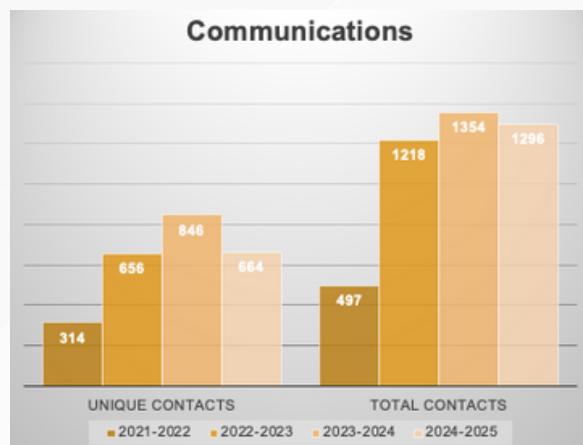
Total student engagement with CCED has increased by 148% over the past 4 years!

The 2024-2025 academic year not only experienced admirable post-pandemic numbers, but all-time highs with staff appointments topping 1,000 (1,055) for the first time ever, and student engagement with more than half (51%) of all current students in just this academic year.

| Academic Year | Staff Appointments | Drop-Ins | Total | % of IC Students Engaged |
|---------------|--------------------|----------|-------|--------------------------|
| 2024-2025 | 1055 | 530 | 1585 | 51% |
| 2023-2024 | 953 | 413 | 1334 | 49% |
| 2022-2023 | 975 | 548 | 1472 | 41% |
| 2021-2022 | 829 | 444 | 1254 | 29% |

CCED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

With the same Career Center staff in place to start the 2025–2026 academic year, building on relationships and collaborations, along with our move into Academic Affairs, confidence is high that our student engagement will continue to move towards our aspirational goal of engaging with and assisting every student during their time at Ithaca College.



CAREER CHAMPIONS AWARDED

Career Opportunities Week (cow) has served as an annual event where ALL students at IC are invited to engage in a variety of programs and events hosted by The Career Center to put a spotlight on the importance of the career journey, while also making it fun and less intimidating. Originally intended as a way to launch our name change from Career Services to The Center for Career Exploration & Development, COW has taken on a life of its own with many students, faculty and staff associating us with the COW year-round. If you saw how many cow puns we have blatantly overused, and the variety of cow swag we have given away, you would understand why!

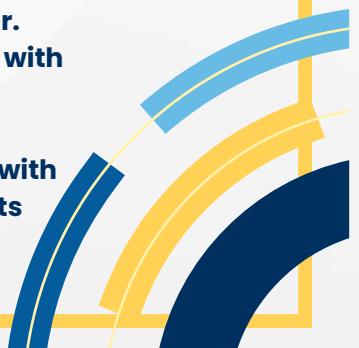


Alumni Champion Award Winner **Jim Ragusa '95** receiving his award from VP of Advancement **Laine Norton** and President **La Jerne Terry Cornish**

Career Champion Award winners, pictured from left to right, **Carlos Alberto**, Physician Recruitment & Retention, Guthrie, **Cliff-Simon Vital**, Director, Unity Center, **Dr. Joslyn Brenton**, Associate Professor of Psychology, **Kimberly Ryan**, APP Director, **Jean Miner**, Chief Academic Officer



For the 3rd iteration of COW this past February, we implemented the inaugural Career Champion Awards. This new recognition ceremony was created to honor individuals and organizations who go above and beyond in their efforts to support CCED programming and promote career success to the students they serve. The inaugural winners of the awards are: Jim Ragusa '95, winner of the Alumni Career Champion Award, whose financial support allowed us to start the IC Career Center Internship Fund, Cliff-Simon Vital (Staff Career Champion), Director of the Unity Center, who integrates career guidance throughout his MLK Scholar and First-Gen programming requirements, Dr. Joslyn Brenton (Faculty Career Champion) whose students collaborated with CCED and IC alumni on a social research project to gauge how student employment at IC positively impacted grads' career performance, and Guthrie (Employer Career Champion) who has a longstanding affiliation with IC in providing field experience and employment opportunities to students and graduates.



SUSAN DIPACE ALUMNI EVENT MAKES AN IMPACT

Last fall, CCED and the Office of Advancement co-hosted the annual Susan DiPace Alumni Networking Event which included an alumni panel followed by a networking hour where students and alumni could connect and learn about a variety of different careers. This year's event connected nearly 100 students and alumni, and we are confident that Susan would have been proud.

The Susan DiPace Endowment Fund was started by Susan's estate which provided for Ithaca College to help current students decide what they might want to do with their degree when they graduate from IC. Susan believed that the path to employment is not necessarily a straight line and that students can benefit from hearing from recent IC graduates about what they did in college in terms of both classes & co-curricular activities leading to their first job and how they continue to use what they learned at IC to further their careers.



Susan was a devoted alumna and enthusiastic volunteer, mentoring dozens of students, and serving as a volunteer for the Center for Career Exploration & Development and the Office of Admission. She returned to IC regularly to recruit on campus and speak in classes with student organizations and with clubs. She participated in local alumni club events & attended Student & Alumni NYC & Washington Network Nights. Susan served for 17 years on The Alumni Board of Directors and was Vice President when she passed unexpectedly in 2006.

This year's Susan DiPace Networking Event is taking place during Homecoming Weekend on Saturday, October 25th from 2:00-5:00 in Emerson Suites. If you are an alum or student interested in participating in the networking hour, please let us know!

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT NOW IN CCED

This past November brought the official inception of Student Employment into the Center for Career Exploration & Development.

After a recent transition from Human Resources, students now have one designated office to come and seek guidance on what student employment opportunities exist on campus, how students can take advantage of Federal Work Study both on-campus and throughout the Ithaca community, and how they can maximize their student job to better prepare them for their career. CCED's support also extends to faculty and staff looking to hire student workers.



The first year has seen several changes to hiring processes and policies to maximize equity and access to students and to further assist supervisors throughout the hiring process. In the coming year we are looking forward to providing workshops and training resources to show both students and supervisors how to get the most out of their student employment positions and how to ensure their experience is preparing students for their career.

OUR TEAM

PEER CAREER ADVISORS



ASHAN



ANGEL

Ashan is a senior Political Science major at Ithaca College with minors in Writing, Education Studies, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Angel is a junior at Ithaca College majoring in International Business and Advertising, Public Relations & Marketing Communications.

Nina is a junior Health Sciences major with a Chemistry minor.

Juno is a junior Politics major with a History minor.



NINA



JUNO



TAMANA



SASHA

Tamana is a sophomore Finance major with a minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Sasha Culver is a senior Speech Language Pathology and Audiology major.

Colleen is a junior Advertising, Public Relations, and Marketing Communications major with minors in Graphic Design and Communication Strategy Design.

Hayden is a senior Business Administration Major with a concentration in Finance and Corporate Accounting.



COLLEEN



HAYDEN



JAGRIT



JACOB

Jagrit is a sophomore Computer Science major.

Jacob is a sophomore Documentary Studies and Production major with a minor in Psychology.

OUR TEAM

STAFF



SUZIE BRACHE
Career Engagement
Specialist,
Communications



HOPE BORSIC
Student
Employment
Specialist



JONATHAN CHALMERS
Career Engagement
Specialist, Business



KATRINA CLARK
Career Engagement
Specialist, Music,
Theater & Dance



DAVE CURRY
Director



SAM ELEBIARY
Associate Director



JOHN FRACCHIA
Career Engagement
Specialist, Health
Science & Human
Performance



AMY HUANG
Career Engagement
Specialist,
Humanities and
Sciences



That day we all randomly packed a banana in each of our lunches, and then felt we needed to document it. That's so us.

THANK YOU ALL FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!