



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

2021-2022



Hope COLLEGE

BOERIGTER CENTER FOR
CALLING AND CAREER

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

As I wrap up my fourth year leading the Boerigter Center here at Hope, I have a lot to be thankful for. External factors had a big influence, particularly as we started the year in the grip of a persistent pandemic. Thankfully, we weathered the worst of it and returned to mostly normal operations by spring. On a positive note, we saw the employment market rebound quickly, leading to extremely encouraging results for students landing internships and jobs.

Internally, I'm grateful for our team. We made great strides as we continued to engage more students through classroom connections, learning content, and micro-certifications. We are paying attention to the changing nature of college students and taking steps to best meet them where they are at. In addition, our team earned national recognition for a creative technical platform highlighting alumni connections and career opportunities.

Last but not least, I'm extremely thankful to our alumni and friends who have supported the Boerigter Center over this past year. As a result of your generosity, we've been able to offer scholarships, internship stipends, course improvement grants, and student services. Your contributions have also given us the opportunity to expand our physical space and design a new collaborative hub for students, alumni, and employers.

Read on to learn more about what we did and what's coming! I say it a lot these days - now is a great time to be at Hope! I'm excited to be here, and I'm excited for what year five will bring!



SHONN COLBRUNN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BOERIGTER CENTER FOR CALLING AND CAREER



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

CFL GROWTH

Hope College's Center for Leadership (CFL) experienced a high level of activity and strong growth as we emerged from the pandemic. Student consulting teams completed 20 projects over the course of the year. Leadership development retreats engaged 120 students across four sessions. The number of students who declared a minor in Leadership increased by 52% over last year, bringing the total up to 50. All together, 446 students participated in at least one CFL program this year - the highest number in our history!



ENGAGING STUDENTS WITH CONTENT

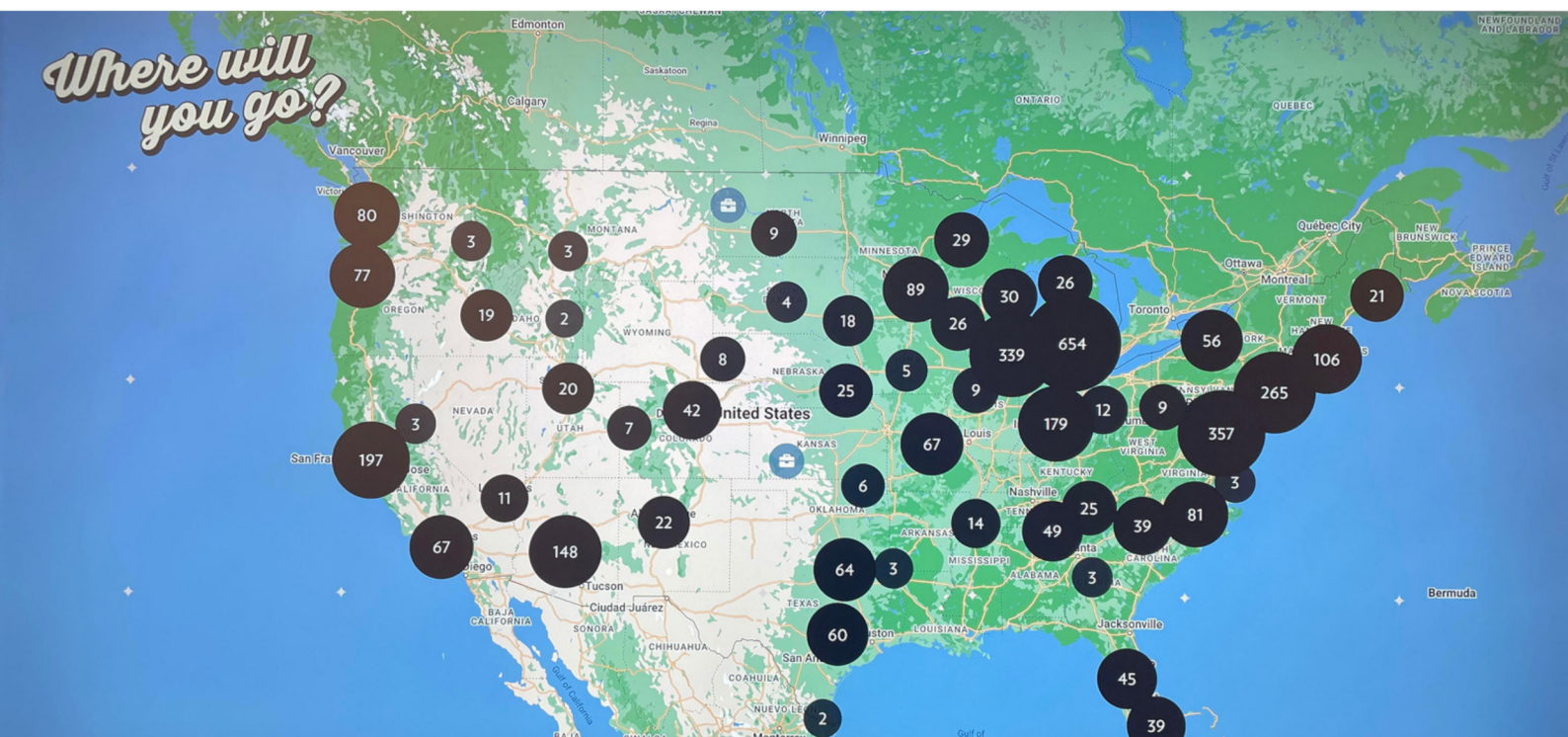
This year we launched a monthly email newsletter to all students, customized by the academic division of their selected major. This is the first step of a deliberative effort we are taking to speak to students in their language (through video and online content) and meet them where they are at. Our newsletters included job and internship opportunities, reminders about upcoming programs, and links to relevant articles and videos. Our open rate for emailed newsletters was typically above 50%, which is much higher than the standard email open rate of 30%



**50% OPEN RATE
EMAILED NEWSLETTER**

NATIONAL AWARD FOR TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE

This spring the National Associate of Colleges and Employers (NACE) selected our “Where Will You Go” interactive app as the sole winner of the small college Technology Excellence award for 2022! The app is displayed on a large touch-screen monitor in the lobby of the Boerigter Center, and it shows locations of alumni and career opportunities around the world, along with highlighted alumni stories. NACE is the leading professional organization in the career services field, and this recognition has led to multiple inquiries from Michigan State University and others wishing to replicate our app. We are extremely honored to receive this award, made possible by our partnership with the Department of Computer Science. More details are available in our [Hope press release](#).



SUMMER CAREER ACCELERATOR

In May, we launched a new program focused on helping students get ready for the busy recruiting season in the fall. This partnership with the Van Wylen Library attracted 44 students from a variety of disciplines to build their résumés, online profiles, cover letters, and hold early interviews with key organizations aligned with their future career goals. In addition, students were invited to complete micro-credentials in Tableau, Salesforce, and Intercultural Fluency. This program builds off of work done in the previous two years to enhance students' resumes with externally recognized, in-demand credentials, helping them to stand out when applying for their first job.



INTERVIEW AND HEADSHOT ROOM

One change brought on by the pandemic is the prevalence of video interviews. These days, nearly every organization seeking to hire Hope students will hold first-round interviews online. As a result, we have upgraded our one-person “Quiet Room” to be our “Interview and Headshot Room” by adding improved lighting. In addition, the light includes a clamp and remote controller for students to use to take a professional photo of themselves for online profiles. Students reserved the room throughout the school year, as the setup is almost always much better than their dorm room.



FUNDING UNPAID INTERNSHIPS AND COURSE DEVELOPMENT

As a part of a program sponsored by NetVUE, we were able to award experiential learning grants to 14 students totaling over \$12,000. The student recipients included freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors and were either students of color and/or high-financial need students. The students also represent a diverse set of majors including Computer Science, Dance, Sociology, Environmental Science, Philosophy, Political Science, and Psychology. Students have been able to apply their learning through on-site and remote experiences working in settings such as the United States Senate, Bethany Christian Services, Seattle Festival of Improvisation and Dance, Lighthouse Immigration Advocates, Hope College Summer Research Program, and a variety of other internship sites.

In addition, we presented three awards of \$2,000 each this past year for a course redesign or new course proposal that encourages students' vocational exploration alongside professional preparation for life after college. Our faculty do an excellent job weaving career-related content into classes for their major curriculum. The recipients were Dr. Kate Finley (Philosophy 245 - Applied Ethics), Prof. Lindsey Hanson (Dance 170 - Movement Fundamentals) and Dr. C. Renee Sparks (Geological and Environmental Sciences 450 - Hydrogeology).

STRONG SUCCESS RATE FOR GRADUATES

In our most recent survey of new alumni, 97.7% of class of 2021 were employed, in graduate school, or performing voluntary service within six months after graduation. While this number undoubtedly reflects the strength of the labor market from this past fall, it also is a reflection of the great work our students have been doing to discern, prepare for, and pursue their first best step after college!



97.7%

Of students in the class of 2021 were employed, in graduate school, or performing voluntary service within six months after graduation.

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

NEW TEAM MEMBER

This past fall, we welcomed Emily Baker to the Boerigter team as our Office Manager. Emily quickly excelled in her role and started serving as a student advisor, leveraging her knowledge and prior work experience at Duke University and North Carolina State University. In May, Emily accepted a promotion within our team to be a Health Professions Advisor, partnering with Marikay Dobbins to serve an increasing number of students interested in medical professions. Emily is a 2009 Hope grad, and she earned a Master of Arts in higher education administration from North Carolina State University in 2014.



Emily Baker

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Matt Adkins

- Hope Faith and Scholarship Speaker Series: Dreaming Big (June 2022)

Dale Austin

- Distinguished Member Award, presented by the Liberal Arts Career Network (June 2022)

Shonn Colbrunn

- The Washington Post: Some colleges ease up on pushing undergrads into picking majors right away (July 2021)
- AMDG Speaker Series: Career Advice from God (October 2021)

Marcus Fila, PhD

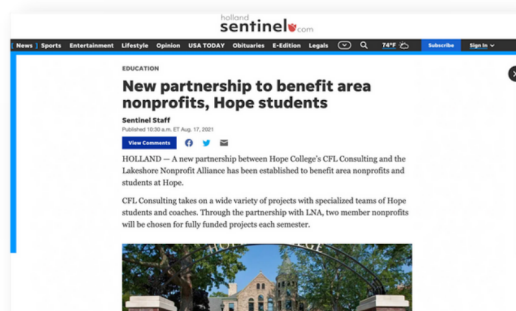
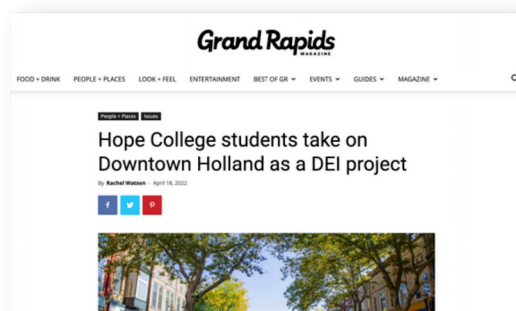
- Hope Outstanding Professor Educator (H.O.P.E.) Award, presented by the 2022 graduating class of Hope College (May 2022)
- Hope College Commencement Address: Playing the Long Game (May 2022)

Doug Ruch

- The Holland Sentinel: New partnership to benefit area nonprofits, Hope students (August 2021)
- The West Coast Way Magazine: Solve a Problem, Develop Future Leaders (November 2021)
- Grand Rapids Magazine: Hope College students take on Downtown Holland as a DEI project (April 2022)

Yolanda Vega

- Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the Hope College Latino Student Organization (April 2022)
- Sawubona Award, presented by the Hope College Center for Diversity and Inclusion (April 2022)



WHAT'S COMING

DEWITT CENTER RENOVATION AND SPACE EXPANSION

Work is underway on our \$2.47M renovation to the main floor and lower level of the DeWitt Center! With 88% of our funding committed, work has started on Hope's new home for the "Future of Work." The current Boerigter Center space will be upgraded and expanded, evolving into a collaborative hub that will include the Center for Leadership and the Office of Alumni and Family Engagement.



PAST



PRESENT



FUTURE

This project will give new life to the former Kletz in DeWitt, which has been largely unused since the Bultman Student Center was opened. The space will include:

- A large gathering area “under the glass” that can be used for casual conversations, events, and receptions with students, alumni, and employers
- A learning lab optimized for hybrid classes or virtual events with alumni and companies
- Interview spaces for students to meet with employers, either in-person or online
- An innovative work room for CFL student consulting project teams
- Multiple conference and meeting rooms
- An alumni lounge with mementos reflecting the nostalgia of the Kletz
- A wellness room for new mothers
- Offices and collaborative work areas for staff

Construction is scheduled to run through the fall semester. We look forward to welcoming you to see it in early 2023!



FAITH AND CALLING VIDEO SERIES

How do I figure out God’s plan for my life? How do I find a career that will make me happy? These are just a few of the questions we asked 14 respected professors, chaplains, and advisors this summer. We will be turning their answers into engaging videos for use throughout the coming academic year.

POD MENTORING

This new, scalable initiative will be focused on connecting students and alumni together to share strengths, stories, and struggles to help all involved flourish during their Hope years and beyond. We will start with eight mentoring “pods” that each include two mentors and four students in a formal year-long relationship. We plan to partner with other organizations on campus initially, with a focus on freshmen and sophomores.



CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

Starting in January 2023, we will have opportunities available for organizations to build brand awareness on campus with our students. Our renovated space will include digital displays in which organizations can communicate with students about job and internship opportunities. We are excited for students to learn more about companies and next steps for their future!

WHAT WE HEARD

Alumni

“

I got an offer this morning for an event coordinating position where I'd be working as part of the marketing team as well. I got to meet the CEO and president for lunch in Holland on Monday and that really solidified that this is the place I want to be at! I'm very excited to start come July 14th.

Thank you again for meeting with me these past couple weeks. Handshake and PathwayU both seem like they're going to be fantastic tools to work with, and it's helpful to know that I seem to be on the right track with where I'm going!

Last spring we met via zoom on a few occasions to help me update my resume. I was the former teacher from Hamilton that was looking for new opportunities. Since then I have joined the Hope community again as a college supervisor for the education department. I wanted to thank you again for all your time, expertise, and help.

I just wanted to let you both know that I accepted a job as an Associate (entry level) Software Engineer with Gordon Food Service! The process from phone screen to interview was very fast over Easter weekend, but it went well! Thank you both for your help in my job search process!

I wanted to reach out and say thank you for helping guide my transition into the Human Services industry. I also wanted to update you that I'm doing well back in Minnesota now and found a job as a Mental Health Practitioner for a crisis and recovery center. So far it has been a great opportunity to put my new counseling skills to work. I appreciate your insight that has gotten me here and hope you are enjoying the summer so far!

”

Employers

“

I sincerely appreciate you taking the time to send over such thoughtful and qualified prospects. You were by far the most valuable resource throughout this process...

Last school year you sent me a list of civil and environmental engineering students who were seeking internship opportunities. We found that list quite helpful and were able to bring Josiah on board with us in our Holland office for an internship. He did a fantastic job for us this summer.

Employers Continued

I wanted to send you a thank you for your help and organization of yesterday's Career Fair. We really appreciated the opportunity to have 1:1 personal engagement with students when most career fairs are only offered virtually, if at all.

Conner did excellent work for us this past summer, so well in fact we've kept him on part time to help in our Quality lab during the school year. Thank you so much for sending him our way. In case you haven't heard, Conner also was recently accepted into our Accelerated Development program through Sherwin Williams Corporate and will be able to start his first full time job right after graduation.

Sam is really proving to be a fit at our agency. We recently enrolled him in a sales training course with one of our carriers. Sam was pulled aside after the 3 day training session and was told he's one of the best students he's had in some time. Certainly not afraid of hard work and has the "sales gene" that is hard to find. We look forward to his continued growth.

Hey Team True! Thanks so much for the work over this past semester. Y'all really pulled it together at the end and it showed through today. As Gary stated, "superb work." It was a pleasure to meet you and work with you. Go Hope! And Go True!

The presentation and project were both outstanding! I was very impressed with what a thorough job the students did and how professionally they handled the subject matter. I received so many compliments on their work after the presentation and numerous inquiries from individuals that are looking forward to seeing their full written report. Thanks so much!

These kids and their advisor's did an amazing job for us—our President, who didn't sit through last year's presentation, was blown away by the detailed analysis and the professionalism that the team displayed. We've already started thinking about future projects for the program—we are big fans!

It was awesome being on campus today to see the exciting future in store for Hope! We're looking forward to continuing our strong partnership with the faculty, staff, alumni, and students at Hope and look forward to the bright future ahead.

I just returned from the super Open House for the Boerigter Center and there's only one word to describe the new space: awesome! It's colorful, spacious, and inviting for both students and employers—oh yeah, for your staff, too! Thanks again for a special time this afternoon.



Faculty



Thanks so much for generously giving your time to come and speak to the students - I can safely say that this was our best seminar of the summer so far, and I think the students really got something out of it. Thanks for sharing these materials...

I just want to thank you for taking the time to visit my class yesterday. As usual, despite some technical glitches, it was a great presentation! I know the students really got a lot out of it and they thoroughly enjoyed your presence. So much of what you said supported what we've been doing in the seminar that it felt like an affirmation of the course.

My Senior Seminar students and I really enjoyed and learned much from your excellent video on the Intercultural and Diversity Assessment. My applause for your thoughtful statements and suggestions!



Students



I just wanted to reach out and thank you once again. I had a MMI at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor's PA program last week and all thanks to you I felt immensely prepared. Most of the other interviewee's had never experienced an MMI. I am so grateful that you granted me the opportunity to experience it in IDS 329. Thanks to you I felt comfortable going into the MMI...

Prein&Newhof has been an incredible experience. I have learned more about the workplace and engineering than I could have ever anticipated. I have absolutely zero complaints about my internship. My fellow engineering coworkers are all very kind and friendly and make me feel included even outside of the normal work day! I am even more grateful now than I was before for your assistance in getting me this internship.

I interviewed with an Athletic Training professor as well as a staff member at the college, and I thought I crushed it! The "mission-fit" advice you gave was executed really well. I also just got a call today that they are offering me a seat in their program, which means that I am officially on track to becoming a future PA! I would like to say a HUGE thank you to you for mentoring me through the whole process; I couldn't have done it without you.

I really appreciated our conversation today. I cannot tell you how much you have aided in the formulation of my young professional career, and look forward to continuing working together.

Students Continued

...I just wanted to follow up and say that Dale Austin helped me significantly. I was not sure what we would discuss necessarily, it was a drop in meeting, and he was able to not only give direct but answer on the fly questions.

Yoli Vega was great!! Feel so much more prepared for my interview now!

Dale Austin is fantastic! He was extremely helpful and flexible in helping me reach my job search goals.

I just wanted to reach out and say thank you again for helping me with my practice interviews. I got news yesterday that I got accepted to both St. Augustine and also Belmont University for their doctorate of OT program! I am so excited and wouldn't have felt as confident in my in-person interview without your tips (I learned to pause and breathe before giving my answer). Thanks again for all of your help!

Thank you so much for the opportunity to join CFL this semester and sit in on dinner soon with Debbi Jarvis. I am so blessed to have the chance to build my skills and experience through CFL this semester!

Doug - learning from you and other amazing leaders like Debbi, President Scogin, and Mark de Roo was an incredible way to teach us about leadership. Thank you for your transparency, and know that "The Servant" will have a permanent place on my bookshelf. Linda - thank you so much for exposing us to the leadership challenge. Asking for feedback and analyzing our data exposed so many ways that I can work on being a leader, and helped me define who I am as a leader.

I just wanted to give you a little update on my law school application process. I just got into my first school: Penn State Dickinson! I also found out I was awarded a full-tuition scholarship for all three years! I am absolutely shocked and overjoyed by this news, and I thank you so much for all your help in the application process.

I am so excited to tell you that I have received my first medical school acceptance from KCU-COM! I also have an interview with Arizona lined up next month. It truly feels so surreal to be in this moment after what has felt like the longest, and most vulnerable, time in my life thus far. Thank you for consistently supporting and advocating for me through the years.

It has been so much fun and a great learning opportunity to work with CFL for 4 semesters now. It is a great program and I have developed many skills and learned from some of the smartest coaches and subject matter experts. Best of luck with the program moving forward!

Students Continued

After participating in your internship program (the make-up sessions), I applied to a number of companies, and had an interview for an internship this past Thursday at K-Line industries in Holland. The interview went very well, and half an hour after I returned to campus they had sent me an offer. I believe that most of my success came because of your handouts, and the lessons you taught during the internship program, so I wanted to express my sincere gratitude.

I wanted to send you a massive “thank you” in regards to my graduate school applications. As of today, I have been accepted to both University of Michigan’s School of Public Health and Emory University Rollins School of Public Health in Community Health/Global Health programs! Surely, I would not have such a positive outcome without your guidance and support! Thank you again, so very much.

I just wanted to contact you and thank you so much for meeting with me at the beginning of last semester and offering me support. It was definitely the push I needed and soon after I got settled and fell in love with my classes and ended with a 3.9! I know that it is out of the norm to meet with you as a new freshman but again, I just want you to know how much it impacted me.

CFL consulting is one of the most valuable things I have done at Hope. Its real-world experience is top-notch, and helps us discover more about what we want to do post-grad.

I just wanted to reach out to you and say a HUGE thank you for all your help with my career search - especially connecting me with Buck Consulting! I've been interviewing with them since you connected us before break and they just verbally offered me a full-time consulting position after my graduation in May! I am so excited about this opportunity and it is greatly thanks to you for the amazing connection and for your continued support over the past couple of years! Thank you again for all the help and encouragement, I really appreciate it.

I just wanted to let you know that I got my first big acceptance to a law school! Indiana University Bloomington has accepted me and offered me \$50,000 a year as a merit-based scholarship. I am still waiting on most of the other schools, but this is an amazing start and I can now confidently say that I will be attending law school next year! Thank you again so much for your assistance with my personal statement, I could not have gotten this far without you.

I just wanted to give an update and let you know that I was accepted to both Western Michigan University's OTD program and GVSU's masters in OT program. I have decided to get my doctorate in OT at WMU in Grand Rapids, and I am so very excited! Thank you again for all your time, advice, and encouragement through mock interviews as I was preparing to interview for those programs - the practice definitely paid off!



ABOUT THE BOERIGTER CENTER

Hope's Boerigter Center for Calling and Career, opened in the fall of 2018, is a college-wide initiative that seeks to inspire students to engage in lifelong practices of career development by emphasizing discernment, preparation, and pursuit.

Programming for the Boerigter Center is designed to enable all Hope students, beginning in their first semester, to understand their strengths, engage in experiences that directly connect to career preparation, discern vocational and life goals, and ascertain clear next steps toward their future. The Boerigter Center was made possible by a major gift from SoundOff Signal in honor of founder and chairman George Boerigter, who is a 1961 Hope College graduate, and his wife, Sibilla.





Hope COLLEGE

BOERIGTER CENTER FOR
CALLING AND CAREER

CONNECT WITH US

CAREERS@HOPE.EDU | 616.395.7950

HOPE.EDU/BOERIGTER