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Career Development Services at Andrews University

U.S. Department of Education grant provides new opportunities for students

by Christon Arthur

AN ANDREWS UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IS not limited to preparing our students for a job. It does immeasurably more than that. An Andrews University degree prepares our students to live their Seventh-day Adventist faith in ways that are informed by the richness of their academic discipline; to be independent learners and thinkers as opposed to merely reflecting the thoughts of others; to be informed contributors to democratic ideals; and to be creators of knowledge as well as the judicious consumers of knowledge. It nurtures a quest for lifelong learning; it equips students to transition well to the next phase of their life—whether that means transitioning to a career or to graduate or professional school.

Career development services are meaningful experiences that contribute to this preparation for the next phase of our students' lives. And because of the University's Title III grant funding, career development services will now be available to all students.

In September 2020, Andrews University was awarded a U.S. Department of Education grant for \$2.25 million. The grant aims to provide a path to success for at-risk students and to improve enrollment of minority students, focusing specifically on the Pokagon Band of Native American students in Dowagiac, Michigan. Implementation of the plan includes assisting students in graduating within four years as well as funds for endowments and scholarships.

The grant also provides funding to hire a career services advisor who will provide an array of rich career development services and opportunities to students. The Center for Career Development will use a variety of resources designed to integrate career readiness into academic and non-academic programs and services. Every Andrews University student will be provided with opportunities to identify and explore their life calling, then use the knowledge

of that calling to inform their career choices. Career services at Andrews University will build on the premise that a career is really a calling or a vocation—and that one's life calling is foundational to one's career.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), career services is concerned with the attainment and demonstration of requisite competencies that, broadly, prepare college graduates for a successful transition into the workplace or graduate education. At Andrews University, career services will align the learning outcomes of the Andrews Core Experience (ACE), the official name for the Andrews general education package, and the NACE competencies. Thus, students who avail themselves of the services at the Center for Career Development will graduate with the distinction of an Andrews University degree as well as having the career readiness competencies identified by NACE.

As such, Andrews University

career services will equip students to exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions and overcome problems—students will be able to obtain, interpret and use knowledge, facts and data in critical thinking or problem-solving processes and to demonstrate originality and inventiveness.

Additionally, students will be known for oral and written communication skills that enable them to express ideas to others and share complex technical reports clearly and effectively; teamwork and collaboration that enable them to build consensus; the ability to use digital technology ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks and accomplish goals; leadership and management skills that enable them to leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals; professionalism and work ethic that demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits; and intercultural fluency that empowers them to value, respect and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders and religions.

A life of meaning and purpose is a life that is in alignment with God's calling. At Andrews, career services are tools and resources that we will use to help students discover their leadership and life calling and to provide the requisite services and opportunities to align their calling and their careers. ■