

Career Journeys

Agnes Scott's Career Exploration Center Supports Students' Professional Success

BY JOANNA NESBIT

Many first-year college students arrive on campus without knowing what they want to study, much less what they want to do with their lives. Agnes Scott College sees this uncertainty not as a challenge but as an opportunity.

At Agnes Scott, students are paired with a professional advisor and a peer advisor before they even step foot on campus. The college takes a comprehensive approach to preparing students for professional success through its unique SUMMIT curriculum blended with leadership and career exploration and preparation. Throughout their college journey, students hone their networking skills, explore the college's career communities, and develop relevant technology skills for professional success, all with support from the Career Exploration Center (CEC).

"We believe the SUMMIT curriculum and the co-curricular experiences that students have at Agnes prepare them to be changemakers and have better opportunities for professional success," says Machamma Quinchett, assistant dean for student success.

Career resources include the Handshake job board, career coaching, career fairs, career coffee chats with alumnae and SUMMIT Career Connect, the college's network of professionals who have agreed to help students hone their professional skills and develop a professional network. The CEC also hosts information sessions on-site, where students can meet with employers, graduate schools, the Peace Corps and other organizations.



Machamma Quinchett, assistant dean for student success



Lucy Moran, director of the Career Exploration Center

"We want to expose students to lots of different types of learning experiences, professions, professional people, alums and majors," Quinchett says. "The first-year Career Explorations Lab is set up to introduce them to the idea of short-term and long-term goals around their professional aspirations and personal strengths so that when their academic and professional interests start to align, they can be more intentional about their experience at Agnes."

The CEC meets students wherever they are, Quinchett notes. "Our goal is to help you figure out who you are," she says.

Formerly known as the Office of Internship and Career Development, the CEC recently moved into two floors of the newly renovated Main Hall. This



Claiming Her Place: Angelica L. Martini '21 *MBA Candidate, Georgia Institute of Technology*

"My career growth wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Agnes Scott community. My professors guided me in defining my path, exploring the vast possibilities within my field, and ultimately falling in love with my chosen major, economics. The Office of Internship and Career Development taught me to transform qualities every first-generation student knows well—grit, perseverance and agility—into stories of impact and purpose. Their guidance helped me speak with confidence and conviction about the value I bring to every space I occupy, professionally and personally."



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— Lucy Moran, director of the Career Exploration Center

location in the heart of Agnes Scott “underscores the importance of students’ professional success to the college,” says Lucy Moran, director of the CEC.

“Until now, we didn’t have a dedicated area for workshops, employer information sessions or Career Peers meetings, so this is very exciting,” Moran says. “Before, we had to reserve a classroom here or there for events. Now anything career-related is going to be held in the new career center space.”

Scotties can make an appointment to talk about professional goals with career coaches, get help with resumes and cover letters, and check out the SOS Professional Success Closet of professional attire, relaunched two years ago by staff and Mia Jones ’24, a former career ambassador. Students don’t need to have defined career goals to stop in.

“We have an amazing team of career coaches who work one-on-one with students over the course of four years,” says Moran, who notes that alumnae who graduated within the last two years have access to the same resources. “They walk with you step by step.”

The goal is exploration. Jones remembers feeling unsure about the future when she was a student.

“One of the things that prohibits students from going in is the anxiety behind planning for the future,” she says. “I get it. But it doesn’t have to be talking about your whole life. It can be dropping in to say hi. It’s a partnership—the career coaches are there to help.”

During her years at Agnes Scott, Jones appreciated the wraparound support the career center offered.

“It doesn’t just give students resources and tell them to go fly,” she says. “It helps students create a game plan.”



Mia Jones '24



In 2024, Agnes Scott came in at No. 14 for Co-ops/Internships in U.S. News & World Report’s annual ranking of the nation’s best colleges and universities.

