

AGENDA

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees

Student Life Committee Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. Virtual Meeting

Public Streaming Link (with live captioning, upon request): <https://techsupport.uconn.edu/bot>

(A recording of the meeting will be posted on the Board website, <https://boardoftrustees.uconn.edu/>, within seven days of the meeting.)

Call to order at **4:00 p.m.**

1) Public Participation*

*Individuals who wish to speak during the Public Participation portion of the Thursday, February 19, meeting, must sign up 24 hours in advance of the meeting's start time (i.e., 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18) by emailing BoardCommittees@uconn.edu. Speaking requests must include a name, telephone number, topic, and affiliation with the University (i.e., student, employee, member of the public). The Committee may limit the entirety of public comment to a maximum of 30 minutes. As an alternative, individuals may submit written comments to the Committee via email (BoardCommittees@uconn.edu), and all comments will be transmitted to the Committee.

2) Minutes from the November 13, 2025, Meeting (Attachment 1)

3) Standing Updates:

- Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment
- Student Trustees

4) Career Readiness and Life Skills Update

James R. Lowe, Associate Vice President, Student Life and Enrollment

5) Financial Aid Implications of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act

Suzanne Peters, Director, Student Financial Aid Services

6) University Senate Representative Report

7) Other Business

8) Executive Session (as needed)

9) Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE: *If you are an individual with a disability and require accommodations, please e-mail the Board of Trustees Office at boardoftrustees@uconn.edu prior to the meeting.*

GRADUATE STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Fabio Saccomanno, Graduate Trustee
 - Student Life Committee 02/19/2026
 - UConn Board of Trustees
-

HIGHLIGHTS FROM UCONN HEALTH

- Two fourth-year School of Medicine students recently matched to residency as part of the early match process:
 - Annie Yao (MD/PhD) matched into Ophthalmology
 - Kelvin Peterson (MD) matched into Urology
- Fourth-year students from the School of Dental Medicine matched to residency in January 2026
 - 8 students matched into Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS)
 - 52% of students matched into general dentistry programs
- Second-year School of Medicine students have their final in-house exam of the didactic curriculum next week
 - Clinical rotations begin in May!
- Research Day for second-year students will be Friday, February 27, 2026 from 8am to 1:30pm in the Academic Lobby of the Health Center

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

- The 3 Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition and Graduate Student Showcase will take place on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 from 8am to 1 pm in the Konover Auditorium of the Dodd Center for Human Rights.
 - 102 submissions; 30 will be selected for the event
 - Top prize for best speaker is \$5,000
- Postdoc Research Day took place on December 11, 2025
 - 27 postdocs presented research
 - Top prize of \$2,000 was awarded to Cao Thuy Giang Nguyen in the College of Engineering for her research evaluating material platforms for precision treatments of brain tumors
- The Graduate Student Emergency Fellowship (GSEF) fund went live in Summer 2025
 - 526 applications to date
 - 170 approved applications
 - \$323,500 total disbursed (avg disbursement \$1,902).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

- Harley Brooke Walker, an MFA candidate in Puppet Arts, just staged her theatre piece, *Darling*, as part of the Connecticut Repertory Theatre's main productions for the 2025-2026 season
 - It is a significant accomplishment for a student's work to be featured in a core series
 - The Hartford Courant reviewed the piece [here](#)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

- Leila Sharifi and Saeed Najafian, two graduate students from the School of Pharmacy, attended the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Annual meeting in November 2025
 - Sharifi received the Pharmaceutical Discovery, Development, and Manufacturing Award. This is a prestigious award recognizing Sharifi's commitment to improving the safety of gene-based therapeutics.
 - Najafian received the First Place Academic Award for his presentation and research on multiphase mixing. He is investigating how medication manufacturers can best control different variables to produce consistent batches of medicine.
- 2024 pass rates for the NAPLEX, the exam taken by PharmD graduates to obtain licensure, were recently released:
 - UConn pass rate 84% vs. 78% national avg

CENTER FOR CAREER READINESS AND LIFE SKILLS

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Jim Lowe
Associate Vice President
February 19, 2026





Financial Aid Implications of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)

Overview for the UConn Board of Trustees, Student Life Committee

Mona Lucas, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment

Suzanne Peters, Director of Student Financial Aid Services

February 19, 2026

Initial Steps after OBBBA Signing

- Thorough review of the bill
- Data analysis to determine potential impact
- Impact data sharing with key institutional officials
- Student communication plan development

Changes Effective 7.1.2026

- Federal Pell Grant
- Federal Direct Loans
 - Parent PLUS Loan
 - Graduate PLUS Loan
 - Loan Reduction/Proration
- Institutional Accountability

Federal Pell Grant Program

- Cost of Attendance covered by grants/scholarships = No Pell
- Student Aid Index (SAI) equal to twice the MAX Pell award = No Pell
 - Max SAI of 14,790

Parent PLUS Loan Program

- Annual loan limit \$20,000 per dependent student
- Aggregate lifetime capped at \$65,000 per dependent student
- Legacy Provision
 - Currently enrolled dependent student
 - Student or parent borrowed a Federal Direct Loan prior to July 1, 2026
 - Up to 3 academic years or until credential is completed

Graduate PLUS Loan Program

- Program eliminated for new borrowers effective July 1, 2026
- Legacy Provision
 - Currently enrolled graduate student
 - Borrowed a Federal Direct Loan prior to July 1, 2026
 - Up to 3 academic years or until credential is completed

2024-2025 Graduate PLUS Loan Volume

Career	Number of Students	Total Borrowed	Average Borrowed
Dental	57	\$1,660,800	\$29,137
Graduate	260	\$5,090,195	\$19,558
Law	116	\$2,717,259	\$23,425
Medical	116	\$3,286,975	\$28,336
PharmD	23	\$592,381	\$25,756
Total	572	\$13,347,610	\$23,335

Federal Loans: Borrowing Limits

Borrower Type	Undergraduate Sub/Unsub (No Change)	Graduate Unsub	Professional Unsub	Parent PLUS
Annual	\$5,500 - \$12,500	\$20,500	\$50,000	\$20,000
Aggregate	\$31,000 - \$57,500	\$100,000 (Excludes Undergraduate)	\$200,000 (Includes all Graduate Program)	\$65,000*
Lifetime Limit (All Levels; PLUS Excluded)	\$257,500*			NA
*Without regard to any amounts repaid, forgiven, canceled, or otherwise discharged.				

Loan Reduction/Proration

- Applies to the subsidized and unsubsidized Direct Loans
- Prorate the annual loan limit using the number of credits enrolled for the academic year divided by the number of credits considered full time for the academic year
- Full-time credit hour definition
 - ❖ Undergraduate 12 credits per term
 - Note: Code of Federal Regulations requires minimum of 12 credit hours for undergraduate students
 - ❖ Graduate/Professional 9 credits per term, 12 credits per term for Pharmacy
 - Note: Institutions have the authority to define full-time credit hours

Institutional Accountability

- New earnings measure for continued Direct Loan eligibility by program
 - Undergraduate vs. High School Diploma/GED
 - Graduate vs. Undergraduate
- Programs failing “low earnings outcomes” measure 2 out of 3 years lose Direct Loan eligibility
- Warning disclosure to students required

Progress on Socialization Efforts

- Update communications sent to students
- OBBBA section added to Student Financial Services Office website for continuous information sharing.
- Collaboration with Government Affairs
- Participation in legislative higher education committee meeting August 2025
- Presentations for university partners such as BOT JACC, Council of Deans, Undergraduate Advising Council

UConn

Questions?

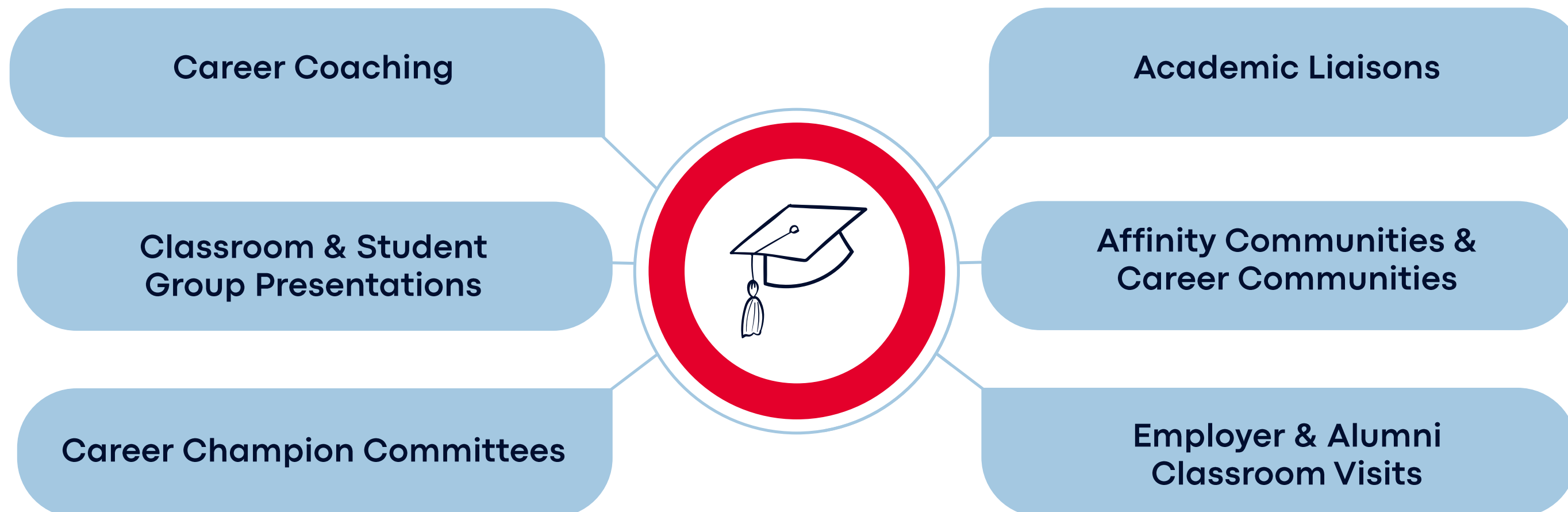
Suzanne.Peters@uconn.edu
(860) 486-7964

CAREER EVERYWHERE

The Career Everywhere Initiative at UConn integrates career readiness throughout a student's university experiences. It promotes a culture of career preparation while addressing access and equity gaps to ensure all students receive guidance and resources. A broad support network of faculty, advisors, staff, alumni, and recruiters helps equip the UConn community with the tools needed for meaningful career conversations.

PILLARS SUPPORTING CAREER EVERYWHERE

The Career Everywhere pillars are fundamental components that support the advancement of our campus partners and Career Champions, fostering career equity for our students.





CAREER CHAMPION

Aligned with Career Everywhere, the Center for Career Readiness and Life Skills sponsors the Career Champion Program to unite university professionals, alumni, and employers in supporting student career success. With many students seeking guidance from faculty and staff, providing current career data and resources ensures they can offer informed support.

PROGRAM IMPACT

CAREER CHAMPIONS ARE:

45% MORE FAMILIAR

with NACE Career Readiness Competencies than non-Career Champions

30% MORE OFTEN

referring students to the Career Center for services than non-Career Champions

48% MORE FAMILIAR

with the career resources offered to faculty and staff than non-Career Champions



CAREER CHAMPIONS RESOURCE SITE

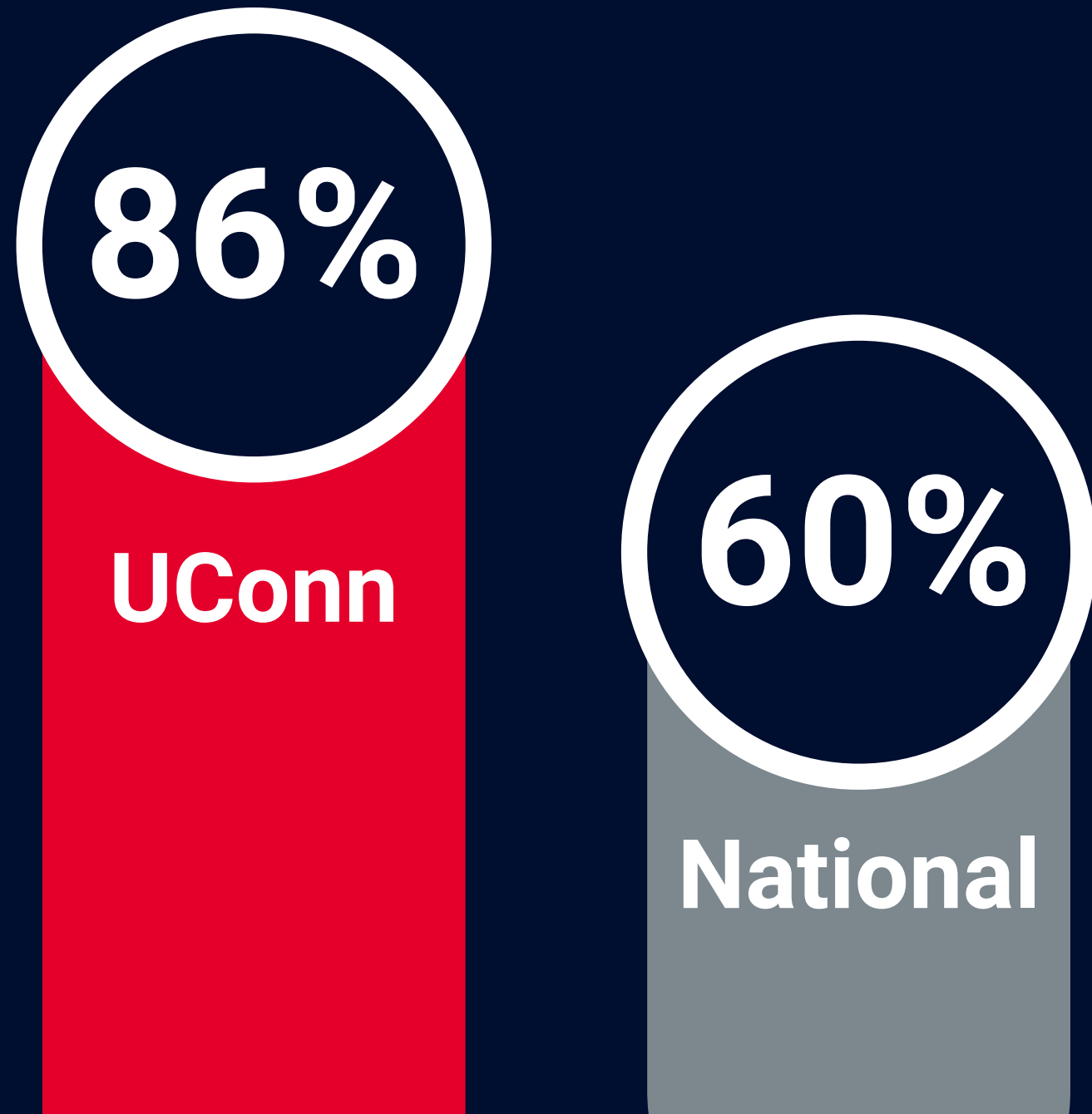
Offers the latest information, resources, and content to support working with students, including past training videos, announcements, and upcoming events.

Site: <https://career.uconn.edu/channels/career-champions-resources/>

ANNUAL CAREER EVERYWHERE CONFERENCE

A day of learning and networking with subject matter experts providing instruction and guidance on leading practices in support of student career development and mentoring the next generation of UConn graduates.

Utilization of Services



According to a 2024 NACE study, UConn students utilized services provided by the Career Center 26 percentage points higher than the national average

Students who view career services as “very helpful” are...

5.8x

More likely to “strongly agree” that UConn prepared them for post-collegiate life

3.0x

More likely to “strongly agree” their education was worth the cost

3.4x

More like to recommend UConn to friends

3.0x

More likely to donate to UConn as an alumni

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO JOBS & SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

The corporate partner relations team is responsible for bringing employment opportunities to UConn students through internships, co-ops and full-time careers. The team establishes and maintains relationships with employers – non-profit, government and for-profit – and introduces them to student talent and capabilities through on-site and virtual events.

CAREER FAIRS

657



Employers Attended
UConn Career Fairs

8,300



Students
Attended

9000



Meetings with mostly CT employers interested in hiring UConn students

TOP EMPLOYERS

- Amazon
- Cigna
- Collins Aerospace
- CVS Health/Aetna
- Deloitte
- Ernst & Young LLP
- General Dynamics Electric Boat
- Hartford Healthcare
- KPMG
- Lockheed Martin
- Pratt & Whitney
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers
- Raytheon
- Synchrony
- The Hartford
- Travelers

CURRICULUM & ACADEMIC INTEGRATIONS

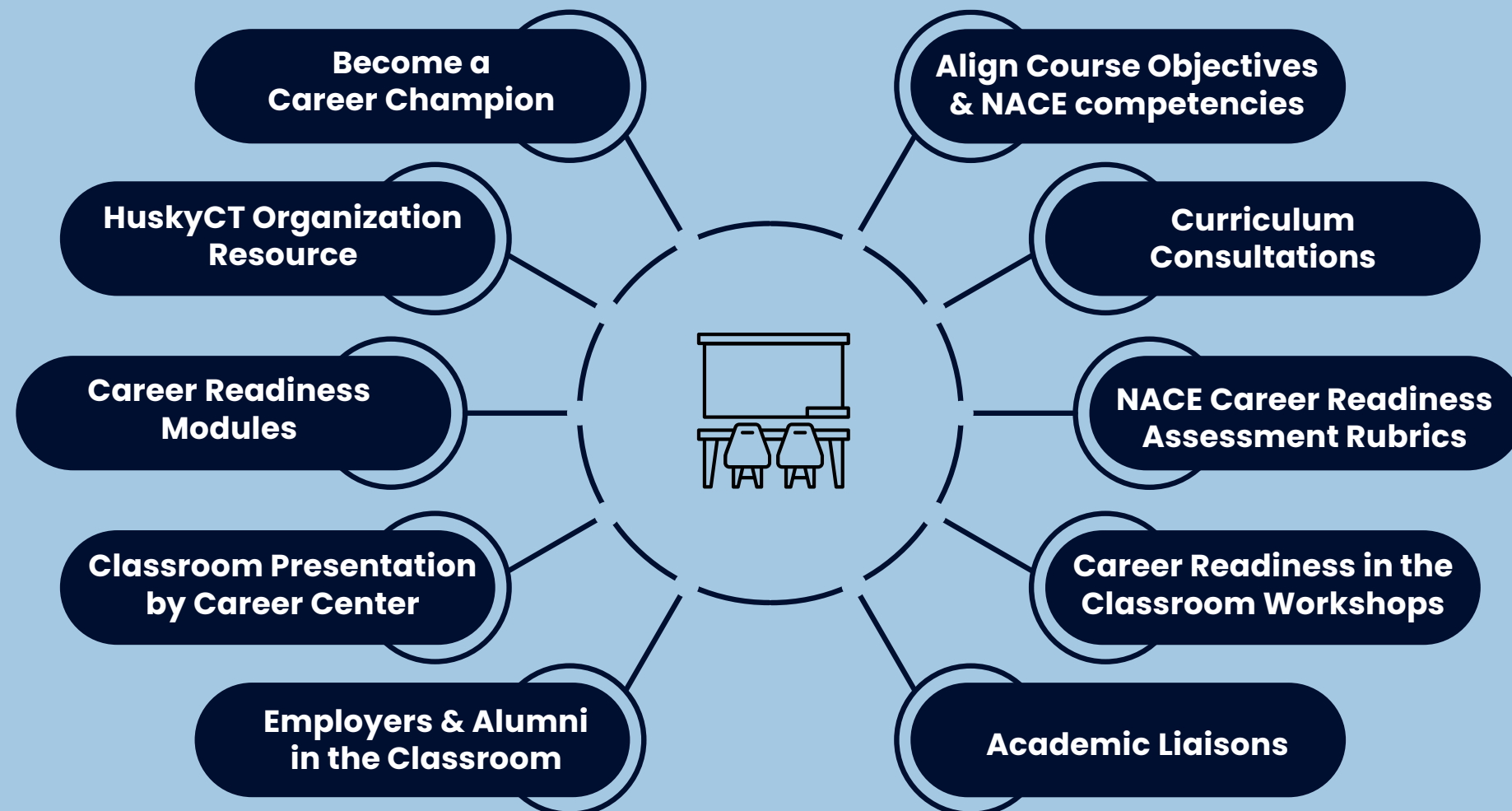
Research indicates that UConn graduates are more likely to have received career advice from faculty or staff members than from the career services office. Therefore, faculty and staff must be equipped with current career resources, tools, information, and referral language that supports these career conversations. With increased knowledge, faculty and staff can empower all UConn students to identify and achieve their career goals and provide equitable access to career development.

FACULTY ADVICE

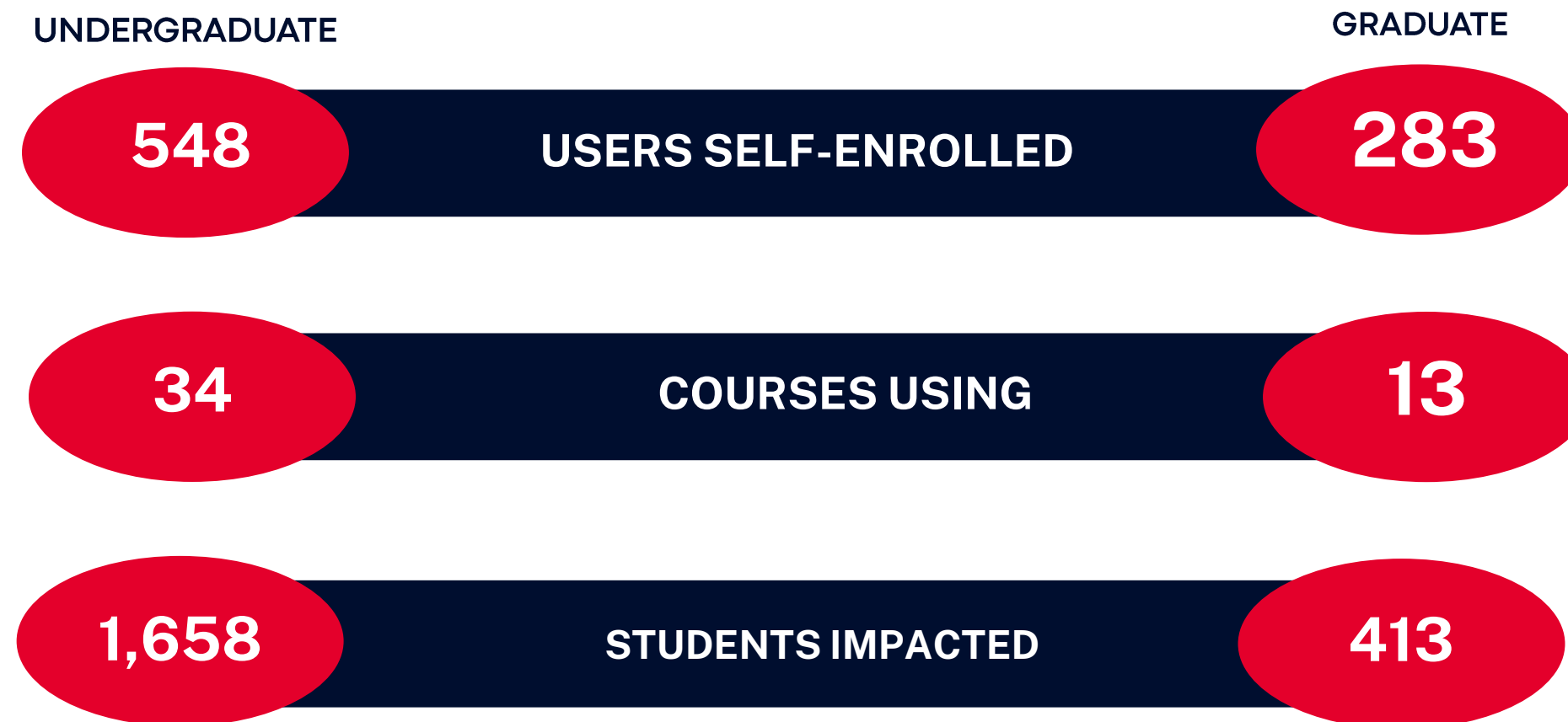


9 out of 10 (92%) faculty report that students in their disciplinary area asked them for career advice in the past year.

CAREER READINESS IN THE CLASSROOM



HUSKYCT CAREER READINESS MODULES



FACULTY FELLOWS PROGRAM

	'24-25'	25'-26'	TOTAL
STUDENTS	1,161	1,418+	3,034+
FACULTY FELLOWS	14	17	31
DEPARTMENTS	12	18	30

STUDENT OUTCOMES

Students ranked their familiarity with the NACE competencies on a scale from 1-10. The average increase in familiarity was 4.44 points.

“Do you feel the teamwork activities and career modules helped elevate your career readiness?” Over 60% responded “yes”.

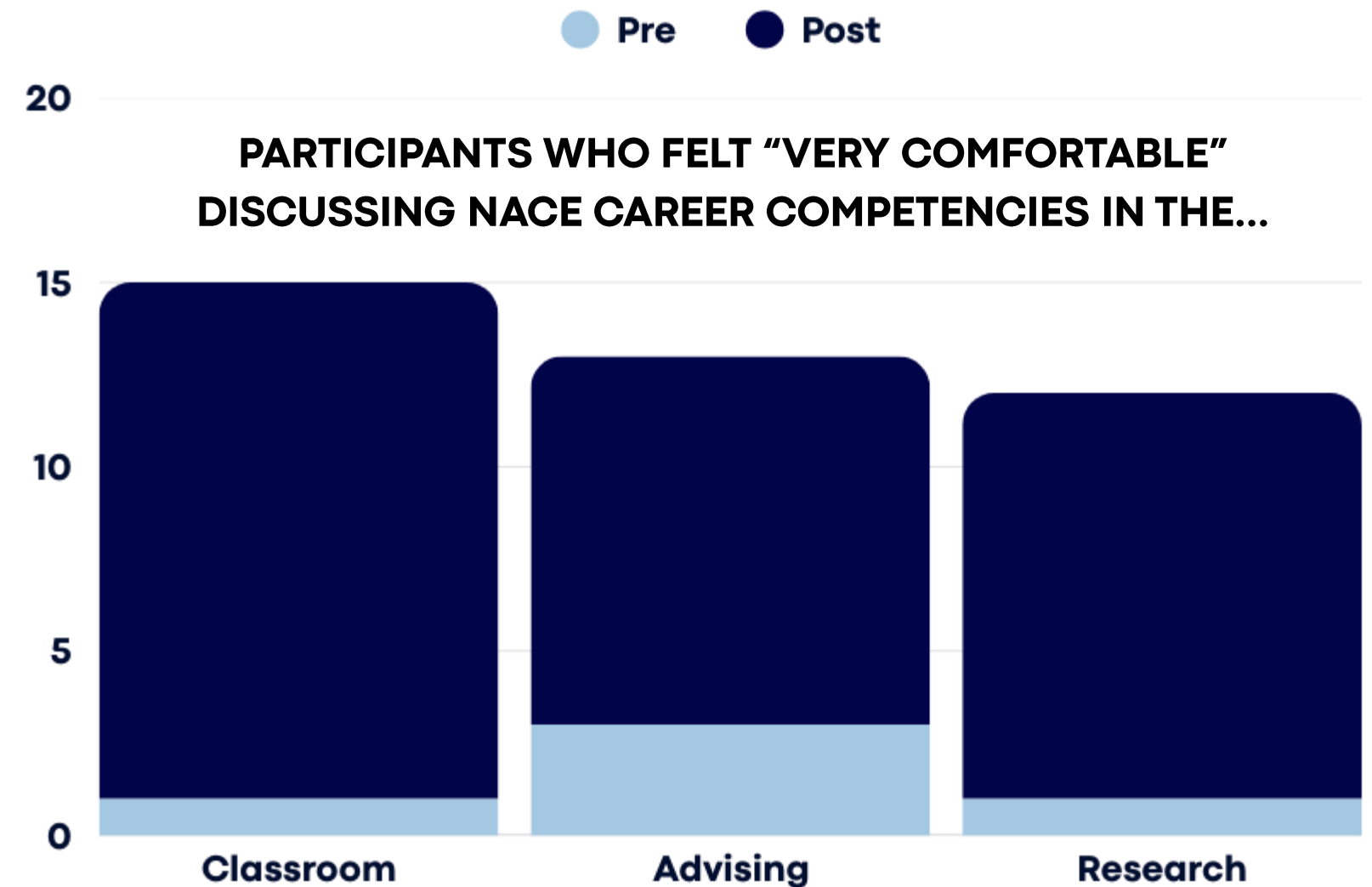
“As a first-year student, I found the introduction to the NACE Career Competencies extremely useful as I had never heard of them before this course. Now going forward, I know what types of characteristics that I should highlight on my resume and in interviews, to indicate that I am career-ready to employers.”

85% of students reported an improved understanding of career competencies.

78% stated that assignments helped them apply economic concepts to real-world careers.

PROGRAM IMPACT

The Faculty Fellows program has evolved from single participants during a semester to a faculty cohort that provides workshops and a collaborative space for faculty from various academic departments to reframe curriculum that enhances career readiness for UConn students.



“I applied to this because I knew the pressing importance of career readiness for students, but personally felt at a loss about what to present to them, particularly as someone in academia (not industries where most students will end up). This gave me the tools for teaching them, but also the realization that I don’t need to know all the latest trends about industries or markets, but can teach about the most important skills that will always be important, which are particularly relevant in our Department of Communication.” – Assistant Professor in Department of Communication

1:1 COACHING

The Center offers 1:1 career coaching services to undergraduate and graduate students at UConn Storrs and regional campuses. Students can choose to meet in-person, via video call, or via phone call.

COMMON CAREER COACHING TOPICS

Students can schedule appointments to discuss any question or concern related to their career development. Some of the most common appointment topics include:

Internships & Co-ops

Job Search

Résumés, CVs, Cover Letters

Interview Prep

Major Exploration

Graduate School

Career Exploration

Networking & LinkedIn

APPOINTMENTS F'20-S'25

Across all campuses, the Center has **20 coaches** who meet with students one-on-one.

Year	Career Coaching
AY 24-25	4,753*
AY 23-24	6,931
AY 22-23	6,488
AY 21-22	5,408
AY 20-21	5,175

*To increase reach, virtual resume review (Quinnia) was presented as an option to students. Many students (3,000+), chose this option for their initial resume critique. This allowed Career Coaches to be more intentional in their one-on-one interactions with students.

GROUP PROGRAMS

The Center offers a wide range of career-focused programming designed to educate students on career topics and resources. Through events, presentations, and strategic partnerships, the Center ensures equitable access to the knowledge and experiences needed to navigate the career process. The Center has provided events and presentations to more than 115 departments/groups/organizations on campus each of the past two years.

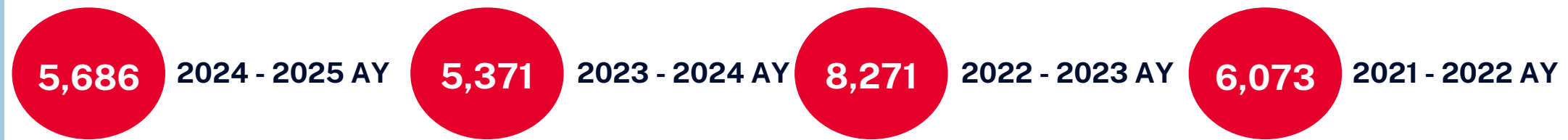
PROGRAM OFFERINGS

- **Classroom & Student Organization Presentations:** Delivering career-focused sessions tailored to specific audiences.
- **Campus Collaborations:** Partnering with departments to integrate career education into academic and extracurricular settings.
- **On-Demand Programming:** Offering on-demand webinars on various career-related topics, giving students access to the answers they need 24/7.

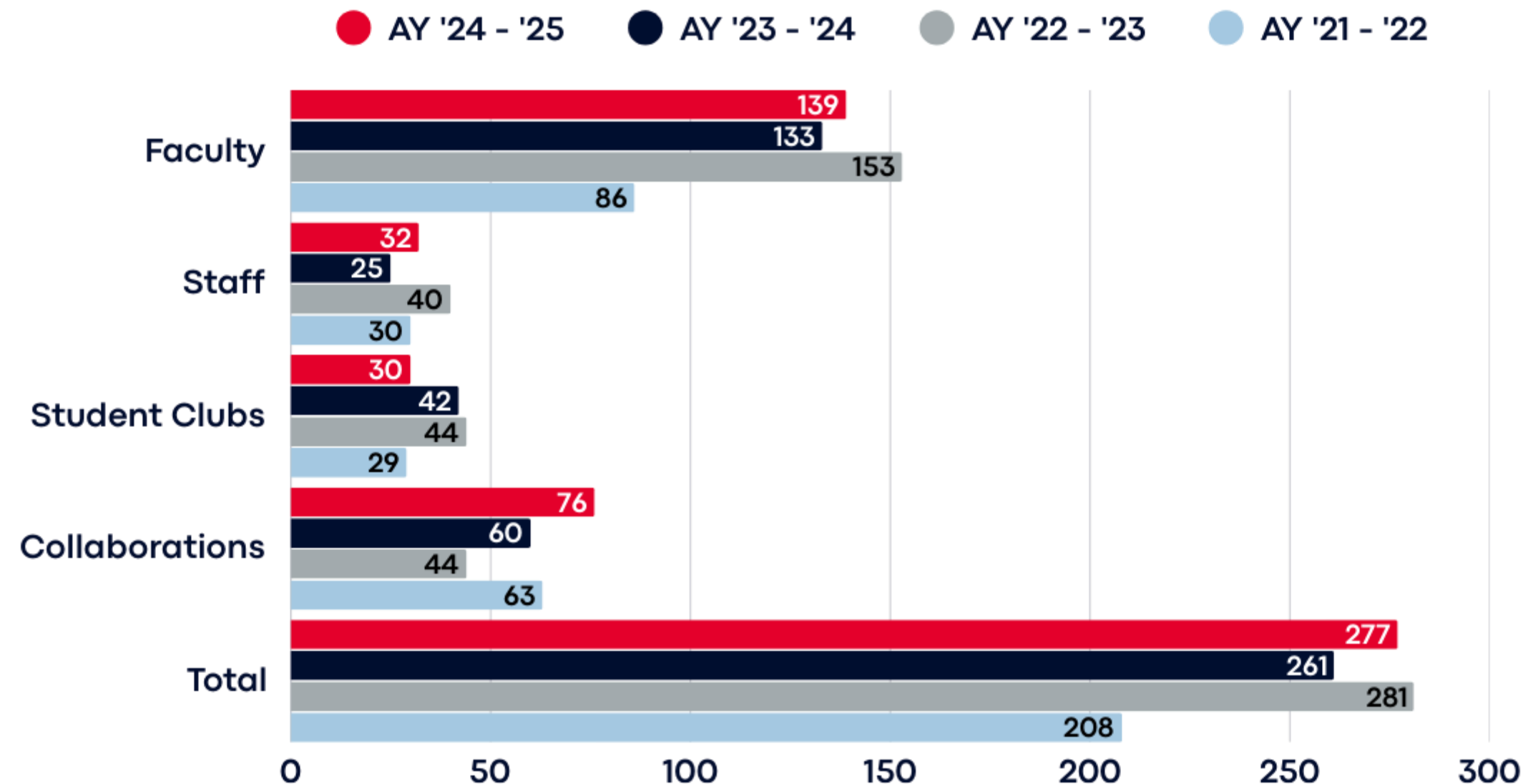
CAREER TOPICS COVERED IN GROUP PROGRAMS

- Major and career exploration
- Job and internship search
- Résumés/CVs and cover letters
- Networking
- Interview preparation
- Graduate school

STUDENT EVENT ATTENDANCE



PRESENTATION REQUESTS



WORK+

Work+ is structured, career-focused approach to on-campus employment that helps student employees build career competencies through their work experiences.

CAREER-CENTRIC

Work+ UConn represents a transformative approach to student employment, aligning with a broader national initiative aimed at aligning students' career aspirations with practical on-campus work experiences.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Every student employment opportunity within the Work+ network is crafted to enhance students' skill set and boost career readiness.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Student employment is seen as more than mere employment—it embodies an internship experience designed with career development at its core.

OUTCOMES DRIVEN

- Enhanced Career Readiness
- Sense of Belonging
- Persistence to Graduation
- Contributing to Connecticut's Workforce

STUDENT FEEDBACK

"My supervisor encouraged professional development"

Pre-Work+ Post-Work+

69% 91%

Agree or strongly agree with the above statement

Agree or strongly agree with the above statement

"I feel comfortable asking my supervisor for help."

Pre-Work+ Post-Work+

42% 70%

Agree or strongly agree with the above statement

Agree or strongly agree with the above statement

"I am aware of NACE Competencies"

Pre-Work+ Post-Work+

43% 83%

Agree or strongly agree with the above statement

Agree or strongly agree with the above statement

"My supervisor was interested in my career and professional goals"

Pre-Work+ Post-Work+

74% 93%

Agree or strongly agree with the above statement

Agree or strongly agree with the above statement

"I feel like a valued member of the team"

Pre-Work+ Post-Work+

83% 98%

Agree or strongly agree with the above statement

Agree or strongly agree with the above statement

TECHNOLOGY

The Center for Career Readiness and Life Skills curates technology and resources to help students build skills in areas like résumé writing, interviewing, and emotional intelligence. These tools are available through the Center's website, which serves as the main gateway to its services and receives more than 700,000 pageviews annually. Known as the "Tech Stack," these technologies are regularly evaluated to stay current and effective, and include platforms such as 12Twenty, uConnect, Quinncia, Focus2Career, and Interstride.

BY THE NUMBERS

Career Center Website (uConnect)

- Average more than 700,000+ pageviews per year
- Average more than 370,000+ visits per year
- Average more than 200,000+ unique visitors per year

Career Services Management Platform (12Twenty)

- Average more than 20,000 unique logins per year
- Average more than 19,000 recorded interactions via career coaching appointments, event check-ins, and career fair check-ins per year.

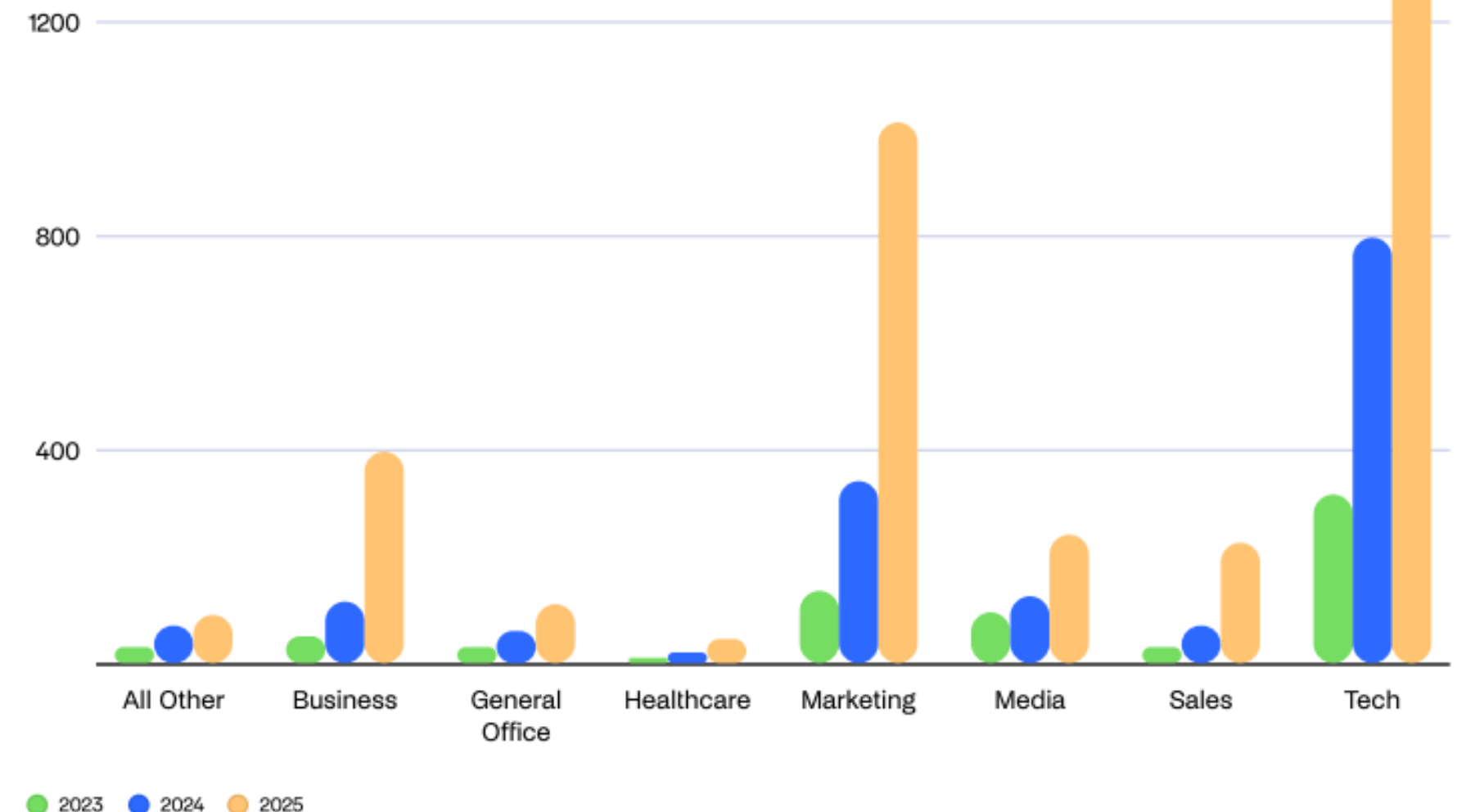
AI Resume, Interview, and LinkedIn Platform (Quinncia)

- Over 3,700 users since launching the platform in fall of 2024

AI TOOLS

Generative AI is poised to fundamentally transform the job market, and students are right to be apprehensive about its impact. But current trends suggest that AI may augment early talent roles more than it replaces them. Rising seniors are using AI as a productivity enhancer without allowing it to supplant human creativity and critical thinking. Hiring managers are optimistic about AI creating jobs and positively impacting careers. And while hiring has slowed, employers are still looking for entry-level talent in AI-exposed fields. Although the Class of 2026 faces an uncertain future, there's reason to believe it will ultimately be a bright one.

Frequency of generative AI mentions in full-time job descriptions, by job role group Share of job descriptions (per 100,000) that mentioned the following keywords in each year: ChatGPT, Midjourney, Claude, anthropic, Gemini, copilot, genii, generative ai, prompt engineer



Source: Handshake platform data, August 2025

QUINNCIA

Quinnia is an asynchronous, AI-driven career readiness platform that provides immediate, personalized feedback. Services include:

- Résumé analyses
- LinkedIn profile analyses
- Practice interviews

To date (August 2025), **3,700+** students have used one or more of Quinnia's features since its introduction in August 2024.

ALUMNI RELATIONS

The Alumni Relations team strategically engages alumni partners to provide students with equitable access to a diverse network of professionals. These alumni bring valuable perspectives, career guidance, and lived experiences across a wide range of industries, organizations, majors, and identities. By sharing their expertise and opening doors to professional opportunities, alumni not only guide and inspire students but also strengthen UConn's connection to the global professional community. Their active involvement enhances student success and reinforces the value of a UConn education.

WAYS ALUMNI ENGAGE WITH STUDENTS

Alumni are invaluable partners in preparing UConn students for successful careers. By sharing their expertise and experiences, expanding professional networks, and opening doors to opportunities, they create a lasting impact that inspires students to achieve career success.

- **Classroom Presentations:** Enhance curriculum by bringing industry knowledge to life.
- **Career Panels:** Offer diverse perspectives on career pathways, advanced education, and experiential learning.
- **Alumni-in-Residence Program:** Dedicated alumni mentors provide personalized, virtual career guidance through office hours.
- **Networking Nights:** Build meaningful professional connections and offer career advice.
- **Hiring Huskies:** Alumni actively recruit talented students to their organizations by attending career fairs and posting jobs, internships, and co-ops on our online recruiting platform.

ALUMNI VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

This chart displays the total number of alumni volunteers who participated in career activities in support of current students' career success.

	AY 22 - 23	AY 23 - 24	AY 24 - 25
Classroom Visits & Events	83	128	82
Career Fair Representatives	424	474	367
Career Champions	198	414	437

Total Student Attendance at Alumni Classroom Visits & Events

AY 2024 - 2025
 1,234 students

AY 2023 - 2024
 807 students

AY 2022 - 2023
 349 students

*Programming & Events includes all Center-facilitated classroom presentations, career panels, the Alumni-in-Residence Program, and networking nights.

FIRST DESTINATION

The collection of graduate outcomes data is an important initiative spearheaded by the Center. We collect first destination outcomes data based on nationally accepted standards dictated by the [National Association of Colleges and Employers \(NACE\)](#). The demand for evidence of student success and employment outcomes has never been greater in higher education, and our team aims to inform both internal and external stakeholders, contributing to the overall success of our students and graduates.

CAREER CENTER IMPACT ON OUTCOMES

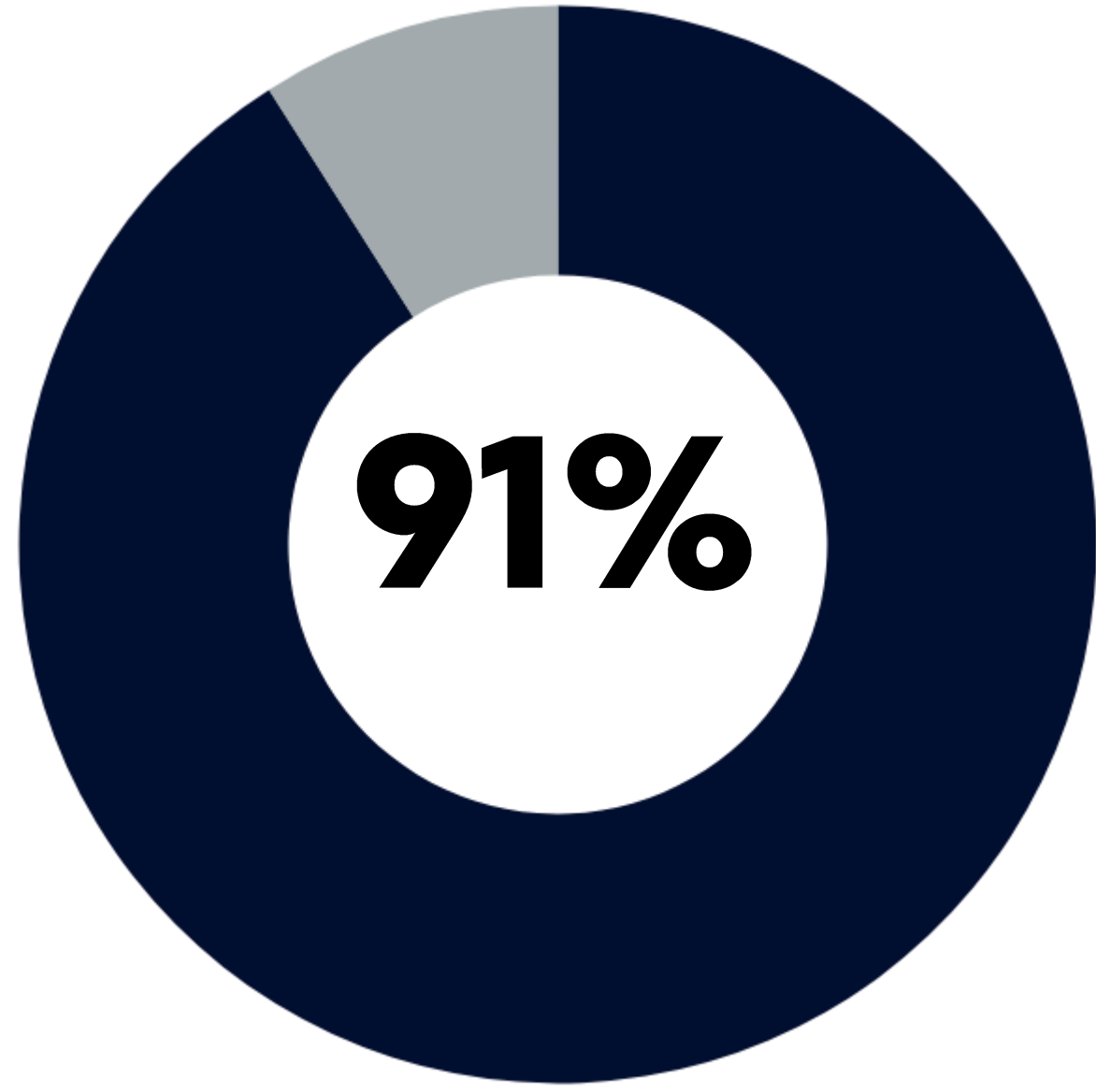
+\$5,000 Graduates that utilized Career Services had an average annual starting salary \$5,000 higher than those that did not.

+7% The percent of employed graduates who said their job is either directly or very related to their current career goals increases by 7% when utilizing Career Services

+15% The percentage of graduates participating in at least one experiential learning opportunity prior to graduation increases by 15% when utilizing Career Services

+26% The percent of UConn students utilizing Career Services during their college experience is 26 percentage points higher than the national rate.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES*



- 56% EMPLOYED
- 30% ENROLLED
- <1% MILITARY SERVICE
- <1% VOLUNTEERING
- 4% OTHER

First Destination Data

CONNECTICUT

77%

of employed in-state graduates work in CT vs. 69% last year



24%

of employed out-of-state graduates work in CT



75%

of in-state graduates continuing their education are enrolled at CT institutions



40%

of out-of-state graduates continuing their education are enrolled at CT institutions



Awards & Presentations

AWARDS & HONORABLE MENTIONS

**NACE Career Services Excellence Award for Work+
UConn Initiative**

**Ernst & Young Global Award for
Excellence in Faculty Engagement**

**Career Leadership Collective:
Career Services Pursuit of Excellence Award**

**NACE Career Services Excellence Honorable Mention
for Career Everywhere Conference**

**NACE Career Services Excellence Honorable Mention
for Career Everywhere and Equity**

**NACE Career Services Excellence Honorable Mention
in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

EACE Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award

10 NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS



**Know Your Lane: Collaboration Leads to
Successful Recruiting, *NACE***

**Leveraging Data for Informed Decision-Making
in Career Center Operations, *NACE & EACE***

**Elevate and Engage: Enhancing Your Career
Champion Program, *NACE***

**Career Conundrum Escape Room
Roundtable, *EACE***

Building a Career Champion Program, *uConnect*

**Researching the Intersections of Identity
& Career Development, *NACE & EACE***

**Beyond a Committee: Promoting DE&I as a
Career Center Team, *NACE & EACE***