WELCOME MS HEALTH COMMUNICATION CLASS OF 2017

On behalf of our Director, Heather Packo and our colleagues in the External Programs, Internships and Career Services (EPICS) office, we want to welcome you to the MS Health Communication program. As you begin your education, we suspect that lingering in the back of your mind is the question—“How will this degree enable me to advance in my career in my current organization or land a new opportunity?” A reasonable question or area of concern and one that collaboratively we will help you answer!

The purpose of this note is to provide you with information about how to utilize the career services resources available to you (people and technology) and upcoming programming. The work that we will do together over the course of your degree program will be collaborative in nature. We will assist you in articulating your value proposition to employers, creation of career documents, interview preparation, networking, internship/job search strategies and salary negotiation.

WHO IS YOUR EPICS SUPPORT TEAM?
Associate Director, Bernice Allegretti
Bernice Allegretti is new to the MS Health Communication program. She brings her passion and broad and diverse Career Management experience focused on career coaching, employer relations, alumni relations, program development and delivery within for-profit, not-for-profit and educational settings. Prior to her professional career Bernice was, an expatriate spouse, transferred to corporate international assignments in Madagascar, Africa, the U.A.E. and in-country assignments in Texas and Oklahoma. Bernice’s personal re-entry to the workforce, global experiences and strong cross-cultural awareness has contributed to her career success with her ability to quickly establish a rapport with students/candidates, in particular international students, to personally understand and relate to their career/life transition and relocation issues.

Allegretti relaunched her professional career in 2001 as a Career Management Consultant with a regional outplacement firm where she coached and trained mid-career level healthcare clients in career workshops and one-on-one meetings. Bernice, as a Placement Specialist, worked jointly with the State of Illinois Employment Training Center and Career Services at Moraine Valley Community College for over six years. In this role, Allegretti coached over 3,800 traditional and adult students in all areas of job search strategies, planning and marketing student/employer outreach programs, job fairs and special events. In 2007, Allegretti accepted the Assistant Director position at the Alumni Career Center at the University of Illinois Alumni Association serving alumni from across three campuses (Champaign Urbana, Chicago and Springfield). In this role, Bernice coached recent graduates up to mid-level management professionals across industries to advance, transition or change careers, developed employer relations and created alumni/employer programming. Within four years, Allegretti was promoted to Associate Director and served 5,000+ alumni in developing career management strategies to advance, transition or change careers to global Fortune 500 companies.
Allegretti earned her Master’s degree in Occupational and Adult Education with a concentration in Human Resources and Organizational Development from Oklahoma State University and her Bachelor of Arts degree from Northeastern Illinois University. She is a certified Global Career Development Facilitator and MBTI qualified.

**Assistant Director, Kimberley Cornwell**

Kimberley Cornwell brings a wealth of experience to the role of Assistant Director of EPICS. Prior to joining the School of Communication, she worked for 6.5 years at the Medill School of Journalism, Media and Integrated Marketing Communications at Northwestern University in the Career Services department. There she worked with undergraduates, graduate students, and alumni in support of their career aspirations. During her tenure, Cornwell developed new programming, expanded outreach to student journalism groups and built new employer relationships.

It can be said that her professional life before joining Northwestern was one of diversity. She has worked in manufacturing, consulting, financial services, healthcare, and mortgage servicing industries as a trainer, organizational development specialist, and human resources manager. Mrs. Cornwell holds a Master of Science degree in Human Resources Management from Binghamton University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stephens College.

Mrs. Cornwell and her husband are “staff” to five cats.

**SoConnect**

SoConnect is the School of Communication’s career management system. This database allows you to:

- Search for and apply to SoC-specific internships, full-time jobs, and freelance jobs
- Register your internship experience for credit
- Upload multiple resumes, cover letters, clips, and other documents
- Set automatic notifications to announce when new postings hit the database
- Save settings for job searches to be used again at the click of a button
- Register/RSVP for EPICS programming and workshops

To get started working with SoConnect, [go to the student login](#). If you are having problems accessing SoConnect, contact the NUIT Support Center at 847-491-HELP (4357).

**COACHING APPOINTMENTS**

Appointments can be scheduled through SoConnect, our online career management system. Once logged-in, click on “Make Appointment” under the “I want to…..menu.”

**Domestic students** – Kimberley Cornwell will be your Career Coach. Her office and coaching hours are designed to accommodate your work schedules. In the event, Kimberley’s posted hours don’t align with your availability, please let her know and she will work to accommodate your needs.

**International students** – Bernice Allegretti will be your Career Coach. Her office and coaching hours are designed to accommodate your work schedules. In the event, Bernice’s posted hours don’t align with your availability, please let her know and she will work to accommodate your needs.
PROGRAMMING

Throughout the course of the year, EPICS will host events with your career aspirations in mind. Monthly Saturday workshops and webinars offered on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, will provide guidance on a specific element of your job search or career. Fall quarter topics will include Strengths Finder, resumes & cover letters, and networking.

Winter programming will delve into changing careers, internship search strategies, interviewing and developing your value proposition/elevator pitch.

Spring quarter activities will be highlighted by our 3rd annual Speed Networking event, which will bring recruiters, hiring managers, and health communication experts together with you, our students for an evening of conversation. We will, of course, have workshops/webinars to round out our programming events.

Summer quarter will bring warmer temperatures, alumni panels, salary negotiation and of course, graduation. Additional details will be provided as we get closer to individual events!

APPLIED LEARNING

Applied Learning, as the name implies, provides students with the opportunity to connect theory to practice whether under the supervision of an industry professional.

INTERNSHIPS. Internships are option to all MSHC students, however, it is required for students with fewer than 5 years of substantive professional exempt level experience (defined as non-clerical staff, managerial or executive roles) and/or students who have graduated from a baccalaureate program within the last 18 months. Students with more professional experience may want to take advantage of the internship experience and are welcome to do so.

ADDITIONAL CAREER SERVICES SUPPORT

Although EPICS is the primary office for Career Services support for the School of Communication, we work very closely with our colleagues in Northwestern Career Advancement (NCA). As a Northwestern University student, you are welcome to take advantage of the broader services provided by NCA. For instance, NCA will host a Fall Internship and Job Fair on September 27-28, 2016 on the Evanston campus. A wide array of employers will be present recruiting for a variety of academic majors. Laura Myers, Associate Director, Student Career Advising is a dedicated resource for School of Communication students.

Look for additional updates from Bernice, Kimberley and EPICS as the school year progresses. We look forward to working with you!

QUESTIONS?
Contact EPICS at 847-467-0270 or epics@northwestern.edu
Visit our website at http://www.communication.northwestern.edu/epics/students

Go 'Cats!!