

MORAVIAN
UNIVERSITY

Laurie Riley'82 Center
for Career Success

Annual Report

2025-2026



Message from the Dean

As I reflect on the 2025-26 academic year, I am moved by the way our community continues to come together to support our students. At the Laurie Riley '82 Center for Career Success, we believe career readiness is more than preparing students for their first job. It's helping them better understand who they are, recognize their strengths, build meaningful relationships, and develop the confidence to navigate what comes next.

This year, that work came to life in many forms. Students connected with Career Success Teams, employers opened doors, alumni shared their experiences and networks, faculty brought career conversations into academic spaces, and campus partners helped us reach students in new, meaningful ways.

We are proud that this shared commitment to career readiness earned Moravian national recognition. Even more, I am proud of what that recognition represents: a community preparing students for their futures *together*. I'm deeply grateful to our Career Success Team and to every student, faculty member, alumnus, employer, and campus partner who continues to be part of this work.

Career Success Starts Here!



Warmly,
Kristin Eicholtz
Dean for Career Success



Mission Statement

The Laurie Riley '82 Center for Career Success at Moravian University partners with the campus and community to support students and alumni in their journeys of self-discovery and building meaningful connections. With a focus on the future, we empower Greyhounds to embrace change, adapt, and pursue fulfilling careers in an ever-evolving world.

Vision Statement

Create a future where students and alumni discover and develop meaningful career paths that not only enhance their own lives but also contribute positively to their communities.

Moravian is *#1 in the Country* for Career Readiness

Throughout the 2025–26 academic year, students engaged with the Laurie Riley '82 Center for Career Success in ways that helped them better understand their strengths, clarify their goals, and connect their Moravian education to purposeful next steps.

This student engagement was supported by a **broader institutional commitment** to career readiness across Moravian University. The Riley Center's partnerships with faculty, employers, alumni, student organizations, and campus colleagues expanded access to career education and embedded career development **more intentionally** throughout the student experience.

This collaborative work earned Moravian University national recognition through the 2026 National Association of Colleges and Employers **Career Readiness Excellence Award**, affirming Moravian's approach to intentionally integrate career readiness competencies into work with students and alumni, strengthening preparation for internships and post-graduate careers. Only one award is granted each year.



Left to right: Shawn VanDerziel, President & Chief Executive Officer of NACE; Ryan Smolko, Director for Career Success; Amy Hudock, Associate Director for Career Success & Special Projects; J. Seldric Blocker, Past Chair and Secretary on the 2026-27 NACE Board of Directors, at the NACE26 Conference in Denver, Colorado.



BY THE NUMBERS

98%

CAREER OUTCOME RATE
FOR THE CLASS OF 2025

1,485

COACHING APPOINTMENTS

1,304

STUDENTS ENGAGED

132

EMPLOYER PARTNERS

157

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

101

CREDIT-BEARING INTERNSHIPS

27,808

CAREER READINESS ACTIVITIES

Career Readiness Across the Student Experience

Integration from the Start & Beyond

Through Moravian’s general education curriculum (MILE), career development is integrated into first-year coursework. **Students immediately begin exploring leadership, networking, and experiential learning** as part of their academic transition to college.

This year marked the first full year of the Riley Center’s Career Success Team Cohort Model, which strengthens its ability to provide proactive, personalized career coaching. By focusing heavily on encouragement and confidence-building with **relationship-centered coaching**, the center helps students map out their goals, embrace exploration, and clearly articulate the value of their unique strengths.



WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

“The Career Success team has helped me feel **significantly more prepared** and less overwhelmed when thinking about my future.”

“Although I was nervous to make appointments and meet with my team because I felt behind or not qualified, the team made me so comfortable . . . each visit was **reassuring of my abilities** as a student and future employee.”



CRYSTAL DESCH '04, MBA '24

While the Riley Center integrates career readiness from day one, it also ensures Moravian graduates are prepared to navigate success well beyond graduation. Crystal contacted the Riley Center this year looking for guidance as she navigated a career transition after 22 years in the music business. From resumé and LinkedIn tips, the Riley Center was able to help Crystal succeed in obtaining a new position in the medical tech and pharmaceutical field.

“When I found myself in the position to change careers, I felt confident knowing Moravian had prepared me for the unknown—especially when it had been 22 years since I had to do a resumé and interview! It’s amazing they provide these services long after you graduate.”

Belonging, Confidence & Access

Central to Career Readiness

The Riley Center continued to reduce barriers to career readiness by helping students **feel more confident, prepared, and supported** in professional spaces. Through the Thrifty Hound Career Closet, students collected more than 900 pieces of professional attire, expanding access to clothing for interviews, field experiences, internships, and networking opportunities.

This work extended beyond attire. Through specialized support for commuter, transfer, neurodiverse, and culturally diverse students, as well as alumni mentoring and accessible programming models, the Riley Center helped students engage with **career development in ways that reflected their experiences and needs**. Employers, alumni, and community partners helped contribute to a more prepared and confident student pipeline while helping students better understand the expectations of professional environments.

Why it Matters: Career readiness is not only about preparing students for jobs; it is about ensuring every student at Moravian University has the confidence, support, and resources to participate fully in opportunities that shape their future.



WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

“I bought clothes from the Thrifty Hound event to have professional outfits to wear for **field experience** next semester. The event made professional clothing feel **accessible** and less intimidating.”



THE IRIS AIR PHOTOBOOTH increased student engagement with professional branding resources and became integrated into major career success programs and events.

582
SESSIONS

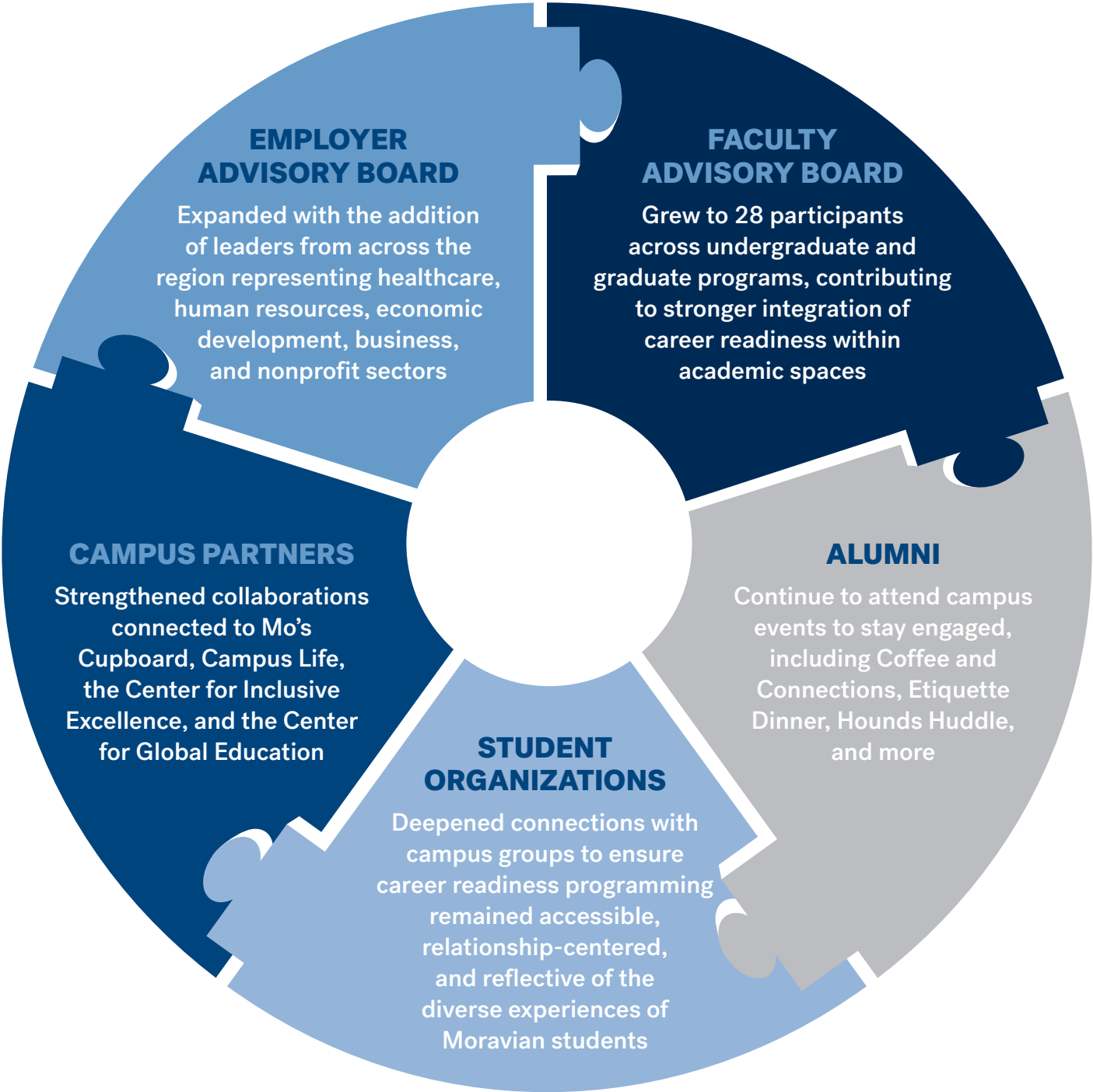
380
UNIQUE USERS*

**Unique users: Individual users counted once, regardless of the number of photobooth sessions.*

A Co-Created Talent Ecosystem

A Marketplace of Opportunity

Through strong partnerships with employers, faculty, campus partners, and alumni, the Riley Center for Career Success creates meaningful opportunities for engagement and impact. These collaborations ensure Moravian students gain professional experiences that support their future success while reinforcing career readiness as a shared institutional commitment.



The expansion of the Riley Center’s networks and signature experiential learning channels give way to meaningful professional experiences such as:

- Philadelphia career road trip & alumni engagement with Deloitte, Aramark, and Baker Tilly
- Career & Internship Fair with nearly 50 employers
- Education Opportunities Day with 35 school districts & employers
- Hounds Huddle networking event for student-athletes
- LinkedIn Strategy Workshop with Lutron Electronics



WHAT OUR FACULTY ARE SAYING:

“The **collaboration** between faculty and Career Success has made career conversations feel more **integrated** into the classroom experience for students.”

WHAT OUR STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

“As my first career fair experience, I was very nervous, but with the support of my Career Success Team at the Laurie Riley '82 Center, I felt well **prepared** and **confident**.”



98% Career Outcome Rate

Second Year in a Row

NOTABLE EMPLOYERS:

- Air Products
- ALLOY5
- B. Braun Medical Inc.
- Bethlehem Area School District
- CAI
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Cintas Corporation
- Crayola
- Fox Rehabilitation Geisinger
- Good Shepherd Rehabilitation
- HNL Lab Medicine
- iHeartMedia
- JPMorgan Chase
- Johns Hopkins Hospital
- Johnson & Johnson
- Lehigh Valley Health Network
- Lutron Electronics
- Morgan Stanley
- National Museum of Industrial History
- New Jersey Devils
- Olympus Corporation
- PPL Corporation
- PwC
- Sanofi
- St. Luke's University Health Network
- U.S. House of Representatives

NOTABLE GRADUATE PROGRAMS/PROFESSIONAL STUDIES:

- George Washington University: Masters, Criminology
- Moravian University: Masters, Clinical Counseling
- New York University: Masters, Professional Writing
- University of Aberdeen (Scotland): Masters, Microbiology
- University of Delaware: Doctorate, Animal and Food Sciences
- William Paterson University: Masters, Finance

Future Workforce Readiness

Navigating AI in the workplace

The Riley Center for Career Success is leaning into future workforce trends, **thoughtfully and responsibly** helping students navigate the growing role of artificial intelligence.

To educate students and staff to better understand how emerging technologies are shaping communication, recruiting, advising, assessment, and workforce preparation, the Riley Center has:

- Established an internal AI task force
- Launched a Professional Learning Community with the Center for Teaching and Learning Innovation
- Explored ethical AI use within coaching and advising
- Integrated AI conversations into workshops and classroom instruction
- Created AI-focused Experience Sets within Suitable
- Began development of a Career Success AI framework and prompt library



Through collaborative programming and advisory board discussions with faculty, employers, and campus leadership, the Riley Center has continued to expand technological infrastructure and data storytelling capacity **to position students for an increasingly dynamic workforce landscape** through:

- New Handshake dashboards
- Expanded Suitable reporting
- Assessment redesign
- Student engagement analytics
- Career Launch assessment expansion





A YEAR OF **National Recognition & Professional Leadership**

The 2025-26 academic year represented a landmark year of professional achievement, innovation, and national recognition for the Laurie Riley '82 Center for Career Success.

- Recipient of the **2026 Career Readiness Excellence Award** from the National Association of Colleges and Employers, recognizing Moravian University's innovative and collaborative approach to student career readiness and experiential learning.
- Collectively, the Career Success Team completed more than **555 hours of professional development** during the academic year through conferences, webinars, certifications, mentorship initiatives, committee leadership, and advanced coursework.

The year reflected not only growth in student engagement and institutional impact, but also the emergence of the Laurie Riley '82 Center for Career Success as a recognized leader in innovative, relationship-centered career readiness work.



STUDENT VOICES

These perspectives reflect the impact of career coaching, employer engagement, networking, and experiential learning through the Laurie Riley '82 Center for Career Success.

Although I was nervous to make appointments and meet with my team because I felt behind or not qualified. The team made me so **comfortable** especially it being my first year at Moravian and each visit was **reassuring** of my abilities as a student and future employee. I enjoyed the collaboration between two different advisors and I think it added greatly to my experience.

*Emily was amazing! I was really nervous about getting into my grad school of choice as it has what is considered the best program for this degree in the state. Emily helped me **build my confidence** while helping me with my resume, essay, and **interview preparation**, while also being honest and sharing very helpful knowledge. She was very accessible and gave great feedback.*

I met with Ryan Smolko for my first Career Success meeting. We talked about **how to find jobs** by using Handshake and LinkedIn, and he showed me how to use both platforms to look for **opportunities** that fit my interests. He also helped me set up my resume and explained what I should focus on when I apply for jobs. The meeting helped me understand the first steps I need to take as I start planning my career.

At the Lehigh Valley Law School Fair, I had the opportunity to speak with representatives from multiple law schools, learn about their programs, admissions requirements, and scholarship opportunities. I gained **valuable insights** into how to strengthen my law school applications, including advice on personal statements, recommendation letters, and relevant extracurricular experiences. Attending this fair also allowed me to practice professional networking skills, ask thoughtful questions, and better understand the variety of paths available in legal education. Overall, the experience **enhanced my understanding** of the law school admissions process and reinforced the importance of proactive career planning and professional development.

*I attended the Educational Opportunities Day Job Fair in the HUB where I networked with several great schools and districts, including: Allentown School District, Bethlehem Area School District, East Penn School District, and Easton Area School District. Attending the job fair and connecting with a representative from Bethlehem Area School District, specifically, led me to have a **screening interview** with BASD. This was a wonderful experience that allowed me to develop my professional experience and **make valuable connections**.*





*I attended the Hounds Huddle event hosted by Moravian University Student-Athlete Alumni to **build my network** as a student-athlete. I had the opportunity to connect with alumni from a variety of professional fields. One of the main things I learned was how important it is to build **genuine relationships** rather than just focusing on getting something out of the interaction. Many alumni emphasized the value of staying in touch, asking thoughtful questions, and being open to learning from others' experiences. Hearing about their career paths also showed me that success is not always a straight line and that being **adaptable** is key. Overall, the event helped me feel more confident about networking and better prepared to approach professional conversations in the future.*

My experience as a Career Ambassador at the Riley Career Center has been nothing short of incredible! I have made so many friends and **gained mentors** I never thought I would. Being a commuter when I first joined the team made things hard, but that didn't stop me from **excelling**. Part of that is because of the team. I couldn't have asked for a better group of people to work with.



During the Coffee & Connections/Hounds Connect Networking Event, hosted jointly by the Laurie Riley '82 Center for Career Success and Alumni & Family Engagement, I had the chance to speak with several alumni about my academic interests in physics and math, and it was **encouraging** to hear how many different career paths those foundations can open up-especially in engineering. The conversations helped me better understand how the analytical and **problem-solving skills** I'm developing now translate directly into real-world work. I also learned valuable advice about forming professional relationships early, asking good questions, and seeking out mentors within the Moravian community. Overall, the event made me feel more connected to campus resources and more confident about my direction moving forward.

"Amy is my career success coach and **she helped me** so much. She made me realize that I am not limited to my internship options just because of my major."



Thank you!

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