

## Investment in infrastructure, facilities pays off for Pace

**W**hen you look back at the time you spent in college, there are a few key things you remember. Your friends, of course. Your professors, we educators hope. What your campus looked like, what it was like to cheer on your teams, whether you were launched into a great job.

In fact, data show that college athletic programs create positive experiences for the campus community – and surrounding communities – and increase student and alumni engagement. In addition, a Gallup-Purdue Index survey of more than 11,000 college graduates found those who reported positive experiences with campus career services were 5.8 times more likely to say their university prepared them for life after college and 3.4 times more likely to recommend their school.



That's why Pace University has spent this decade transforming its Pleasantville campus, making it more beautiful and more useful for our students. Just last month we cut the ribbon on a new Career Services center, modeled on today's hottest corporate campuses. And several of our Pace Setters teams – including our No.2 in the nation women's field hockey team, in only its fourth season – are posting their best records in years.

Pace Pleasantville is today a modern, sustainable and dynamic living and learning community. We're providing our students with a great education, a great experience and we're preparing them to lead tomorrow's workforce.

Our plan included building new infrastructure and renovating existing buildings to transform the student experience. The new facilities include new residence halls that enhance the living-learning experience for students with First Year Interest Group-themed communities, study lounges, classroom and collaborative study spaces with faculty members in residence.

Our environmental science program has a new home in a self-sufficient, sustainable classroom building that incorporates geothermal heating and solar panel systems, and it hosts more than 2,500 school children a year for educational programs. The Kessel Student Center was renovated and expanded to create collaborative learning spaces and accommodate an increased student population. We also added new state-of-the-art production facilities for the media, communications and visual arts programs.

A major component of the plan was to enhance our athletic program. New fields and facilities include Finnerty Field for baseball; another field for women's lacrosse and field hockey programs, among other sports; and the new, state-of-the-art Ianniello Field House, named for Joseph Ianniello, the Pace alumnus and trustee who is now the CEO of the CBS Corporation.

With new teams and facilities, the athletics program has been able to attract a great new cohort of student-athletes who are highly successful both on and off the field. Our football team is seeing its best season in decades.

And these athletes perform just as well in the classroom. In the spring of 2018, 244 student-athletes had a GPA of 3.0 or higher. That's an impressive two-thirds of our student-athletes. Last academic year, a record five teams from Pace won the Team Academic Excellence Award from the Northeast-10 Conference, for the highest team GPA.

This commitment to enhancing the student experience is paying off. First-year applications and enrollments are up, with higher average SAT scores and GPAs among applicants. And those students end up finding good jobs. For our Class of 2017, 87 percent of undergraduates and 94 percent of graduate students were either employed, in graduate school, or volunteering within six months of graduation.

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Employers know they're finding students ready to work. Pace's students have long been a motivated, ambitious, hard-working bunch. They're the doers and strivers with big dreams, determined to make a difference. They come to Pace because we have a long history of creating opportunities for them. The way we do that



today is the Pace Path, our signature education model that combines excellent academic instruction with hands-on, real-world experience, so our students are ready to hit the ground running in their careers when they graduate.

The internship program at Pace is one of the largest in the New York metropolitan area among four-year colleges. In the last academic year, Pace Career Services offered more than 1,500 internship and cooperative education experiences. Approximately 62 percent of Pace students complete at least one internship and we're aiming to increase that number to 70 percent over the next five years.

Career Services has also received national recognition for its success in placement rates, employer satisfaction and building a network of employers. The department works with the employment community to identify entry-level professional jobs and internships. Each year, the office engages with more than 6,000 employers. It posted 19,000 opportunities for students in 2017. Employers can post job opportunities directly through Pace's online database and sign up to participate in campus career fairs.

*Marvin Krislov is the president of Pace University.*