Who We Are

The Linking Experience, Academics and Practice (LEAP) program supports second semester freshman through their sophomore year by:
- Providing students with integrated academic and career advising.
- Connecting students with Experiential Learning Opportunities to help them increase knowledge and develop skills beyond the classroom.
- Supporting students to complete academic goals and explore career options.

SuperLEAPer of the Month: Cortanay Parker, Senior Academic Advisor

What was your major and career goals in college?
I graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and a minor in Africana Studies. I wanted to become a criminal defense attorney.

How did LEAP contribute to your success?
The premise of LEAP is to encourage students to be involved in experiential learning opportunities on campus through internships, fellowships, and volunteering, in order to help them gain transferrable skills and explore career paths. I worked in the Academic Advisement Center as a peer advisor from my sophomore year until I graduated. I also participated in the Pre-Law Boot Camps to get the law school experience. After that, I spent a summer interning at the New York County District Attorney’s Office (Crime Strategies Unit) gathering information for the prosecution. I found out about the internship at John Jay’s Career Fair, where I met and connected with Assistant District Attorneys. I enjoyed the internship so much that I asked to come back in my senior year to gain more work experience, while earning academic credits. Before I left, I mentioned to the attorneys that I wanted to become a paralegal for a year before going to law school, to learn more about the legal field. By the time I graduated from John Jay, they offered me a full-time position as...
a paralegal in one of the trial bureaus. However, while working as a paralegal I quickly realized that I was not interested in becoming an attorney and decided that I would focus on helping young adults avoid the criminal justice system. So, I came back to John Jay to pursue my Master of Arts in Criminal Justice and graduated in May 2019.

**What are your career goals?**

While pursuing my Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice, I worked as a part-time Academic Advisor for the Criminal Justice Bachelor of Science major in the Academic Advisement Center. Through my criminal justice education and work as an Academic Advisor, I realized that a viable way to keep young adults out of the criminal justice system is to empower them to pursue an education. In line with that principle, I decided to advance my career in higher education. Now I am a Senior Academic Advisor with the LEAP program and an adjunct Africana Studies Professor at John Jay College. In the future, I hope to become a Director of Academic Advising.

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**Did You Know That?**

Written communication, problem-solving skills, and teamwork are some of the most desired skills by employers! When the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) asked employers participating in its Job Outlook 2019 survey which skills and qualities—beyond a strong GPA—they most want to see on students’ resumes, more than 80% indicated written communication skills, making it the most sought-after attribute in 2019. Problem-solving skills and an ability to work as part of a team are also highly desired. Attributes showing more significant movement this year are initiative and leadership. Initiative, which was eighth on the list last year, has rocketed to fourth. Leadership, on the other hand, has dropped from the fourth most sought-after attribute last year to the seventh this year (tied with verbal communication skills). *Source: Job Outlook 2019, National Association of Colleges and Employers.*

**News You Can Use**

Students from liberal-arts colleges don’t merely recoup their tuition dollars in the long run, but they eventually earn more than those who attended trade or business schools, a new report shows. If there’s any drawback for liberal-arts graduates, it’s the long wait for the payoff. At 10 years after enrollment, the median liberal-arts Return On Investment (ROI) is only $62,000 compared with $107,000 for all institutions. But the median ROI of liberal-arts colleges eventually climbs to $918,000 compared with a median of $723,000 for all colleges combined. *Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education, January 2019.*

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**Upcoming Events**

Please join us at the following **Majors and minors** events to learn more about academic and career resources:

**Gameshow**
Wednesday, **February 20**
NB Atrium | 1:40 pm-2:55pm

**Learn & Earn**
Tuesday, **February 25**
NB Moot Court

**2-Year Plan for Grad School**
Thursday, **February 27**
NB 9.64

**Developing A Professional Pitch**
Thursday, **February 20**
L.72 NB | 11:00am-3:00pm

**Criminal Justice BA Open Advising**
Tuesday, **February 25**
HH 636.17

**Academic Internship Info Session**
Thursday, **February 28**
L.72 NB | 1:40 pm-2:55pm