

Name: **Nicole Ramsey**

Title: **Career Coach**

Institution: **Radford University**

Role: **Career and Talent Development**

Membership registration or conference attended: Name, date, where and when: **2023 NACE Conference & Expo, June 5-7 in Orlando, FL**

Provide a brief overview of that membership or conference opportunity and why you selected it – this should be a summary/story of need – why is this opportunity critical to your current work and career goals to advance work-based learning opportunities for students? **As a Career Coach, I chose this membership/conference opportunity because I recognize the critical importance of networking with employers and learning from other career service professionals. As someone dedicated to advancing work-based learning opportunities for students, I understand that staying connected with industry partners and staying abreast of best practices is essential for success in my current role. This opportunity offers invaluable insights and connections that will directly contribute to enhancing my ability to support students in accessing meaningful work experiences**

Share the story of the value that this scholarship added to your professional work. What did you learn from the professional development opportunity and how does it relate to advancing work-based learning for students? Be specific. Every type of conference or membership offers opportunities for networking and learning best practices, new resources. What sets this opportunity (conference or membership) apart? What did you learn that will help you advance work-based learning opportunities for students? **This scholarship granted me an invaluable opportunity that would have otherwise been inaccessible due to financial constraints at my university. Given the hiatus of in-person national conferences due to the pandemic, this event held particular significance. It offered a diverse array of breakout sessions, providing unparalleled learning and networking opportunities with colleagues from colleges and universities across the country.**

How do you plan on using what you learned in your day-to-day responsibilities and current role? **I will promptly implement the presentation ideas and best practices shared in coaching students for internships on a one-on-one basis. The insights gained from employers regarding their expectations for students in work-based opportunities have provided me with a more comprehensive understanding of required skills and competencies. I am enthusiastic about equipping Radford students to seize opportunities by ensuring they are informed, prepared, and qualified to pursue the experiences they need.**

How will this opportunity benefit the students you work with? **Attending the 2023 NACE Conference & Expo has better equipped me to prepare Radford University students for**

internships, work-based learning experiences, and eventual job offers in their fields of interest.

What else would you like to share about the conference/membership experience? **The conference/membership experience was truly transformative for me both professionally and personally. I feel invigorated and more dedicated than ever to collaborating with students to help them secure meaningful job opportunities. Building new professional networking contacts during the conference has been invaluable, and I look forward to maintaining these connections long after the event. This experience stands out as the best professional development opportunity I've had as a Career Services Professional, and I am immensely grateful for the opportunity provided through this scholarship.**