Building a Career Ecosystem at UBC: The Faculty of Arts and UBC Career Centre Collaboration

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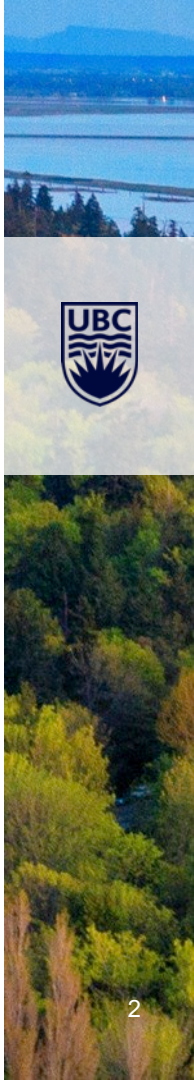
Land Acknowledgement

We are gathered during this session on Tk̓emlúps te Secwépemc territory, situated within the unceded ancestral lands of the Secwépemc Nation.

We acknowledge that UBC’s two main campuses are situated within the ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people, and in the traditional, ancestral, unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation and their peoples.

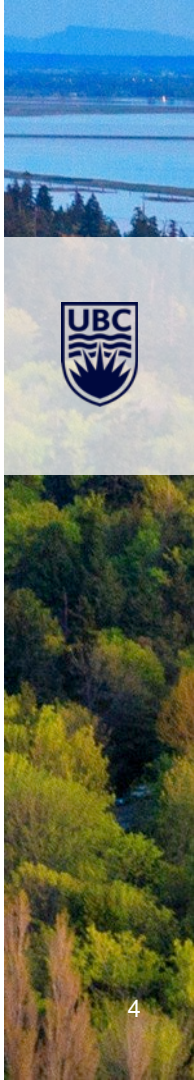


Overview

- Context
- Partnership examples
- Case Study
- Why this works
- What might the future hold
- Discussion – Q&A

UBC Context

- 70,000+ students, 2 campuses
- More than 435,000 alumni; ~16,000 new grads
- Highly decentralized institution



UBC Career Centre

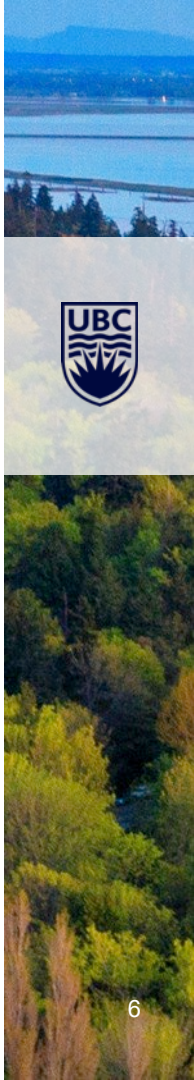
- **3 student facing teams**
  - Career & Professional Development
  - Employer & Alumni Engagement
  - Workplace Learning

- Focus on improving Centre quality and campus integration

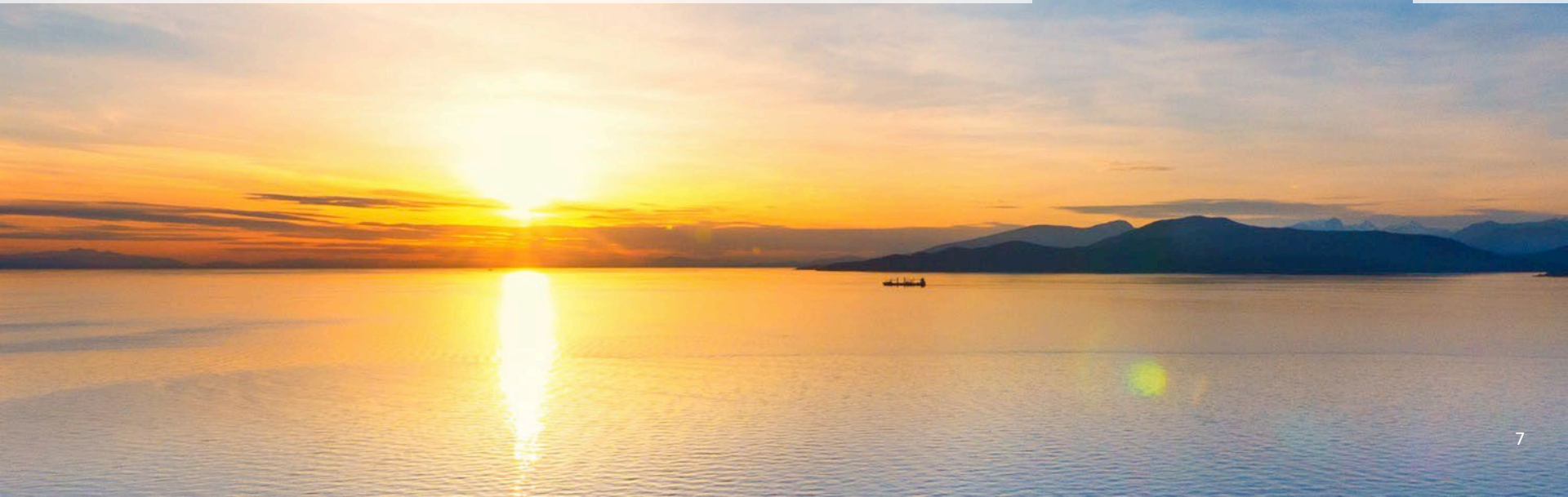
UBC Faculty of Arts

- Largest faculty at UBC: ~14,000 ug students and 2000 grad students
- ~ 30% of UG students are international
- 90 undergraduate programs across 26+ departments
- UG degrees highly customizable
- ~ 1000 undergrad students in co-op
- ~ 200 grad students in co-op (from select Professional MA Programs)
- Compass Arts Student Engagement Hub

From Arts Mission statement: "Prepare students for the future and empower them to contribute positively to society"



Partnership Examples



Arts Career Strategist

- Dual report to Arts and UBC Career Centre
- Focuses on curricular and co-curricular programming for Arts students
- Developed deep knowledge of majors and disciplines and builds strategic relationships with faculty members and leaders of departmental student clubs and key Arts staff
- Career Centre: Contributes to career programming for all UBC students

- Examples of initiatives:
  - "Telling the Story of Your English Degree": Resumes, Cover Letters, LinkedIn
  - Skills development training prior to Gender, Race and Social Justice practicum and "Telling the Story" at end
  - Leads career programming through Compass Arts Student Engagement Hub including Arts Career Conversations, Arts Design Studio, and standalone events such as Career Fair prep and Vision Boarding

Practical Learning Team

Cross-disciplinary team that works together to support faculty members to bring practical learning into the classroom:

- Arts Alumni Engagement
- Arts Instructional Support
- Arts Work Integrated Education
- Centre for Teaching Learning and Technology
- entrepreneurship@UBC
- UBC Career Centre

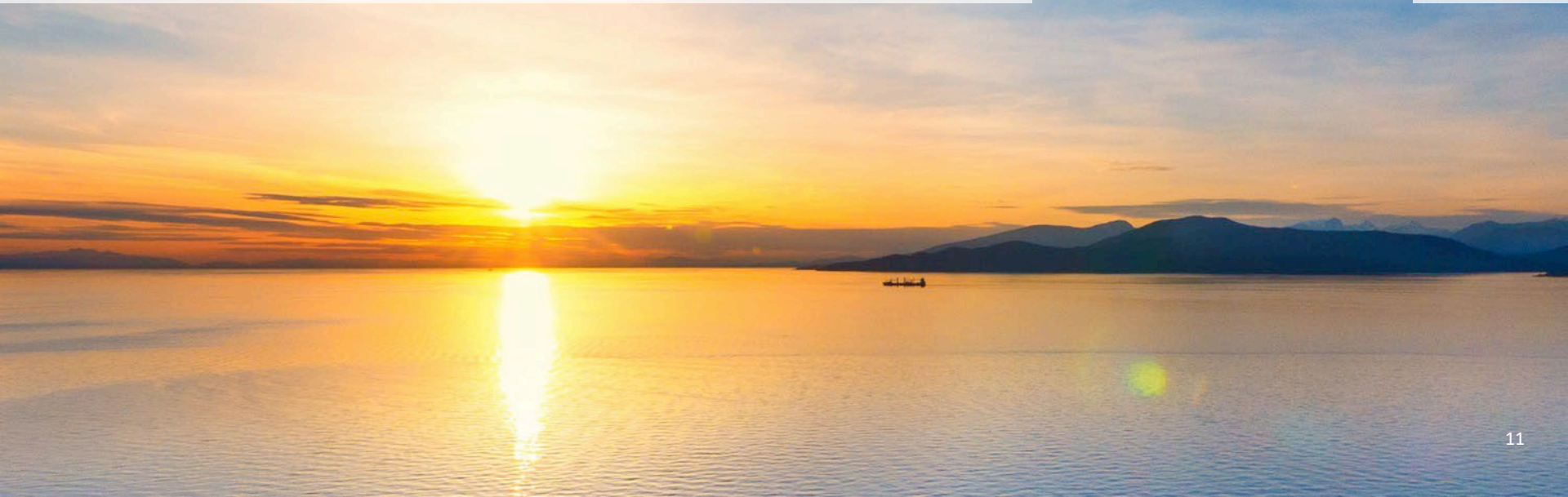
Contribute to individual course assignments, new course design, curricular renewal and new program development, showcasing faculty success stories, contributing to Teaching Innovation grant funded initiatives

https://isit.arts.ubc.ca/services-support/instructional-support/course-design-delivery-strategies/practical-learning/

Career Leaders Forum

- 12 members made up of senior decision-makers on both campuses
- Supports co-operation and collaboration
- Identifies and moves forward on items of priority for a multitude of Forum members
- While consensus is an ideal, it is not an expectation
- Focused on three primary issues (pain points)
    - Technology
    - Employer Relations
    - Data

Case Study: Political Science



Political Science Case Study

2018

Julie's new ED role

Career Strategist dual report

2019

POLI consultation with alumni

2020

Richard Price invites Christine, Kimberley, Julie to co-create course

2021

POLI 395 taught as POLI 350

Political Science Case Study (cont'd)

2022

Senate approval of POLI 395

2023

Price sabbatical--gets coaching certification

2024

Price named Director of Arts Grad Programs

2025

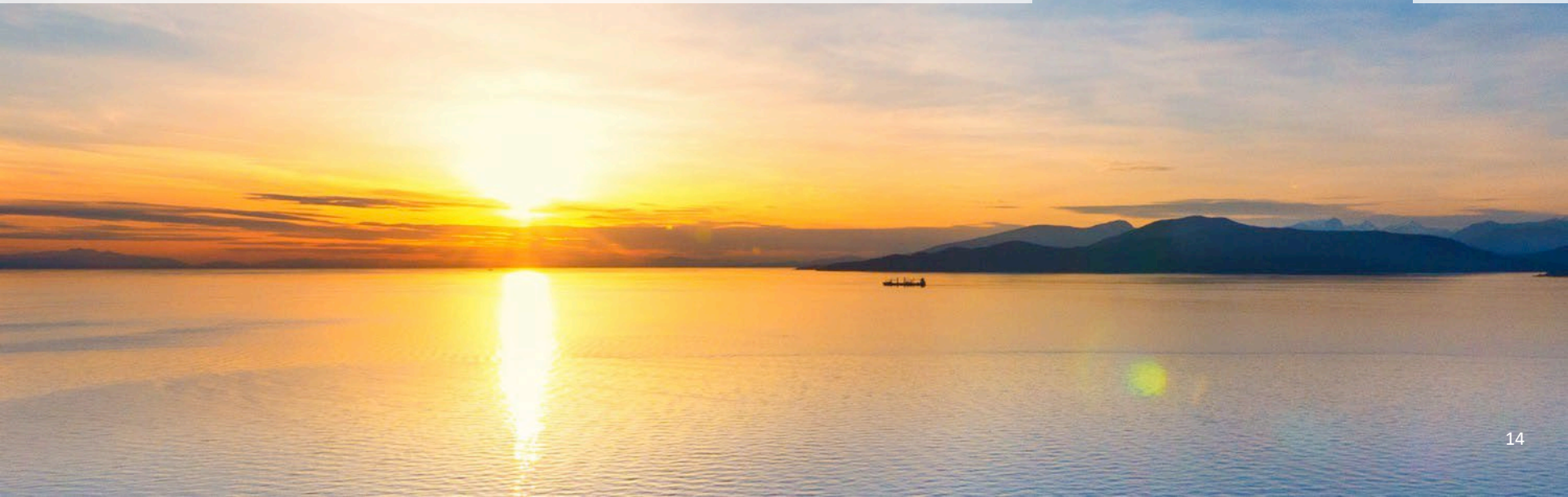
UBC Grad student experience working group

Price Created POLI 500

Price developed Grad coaching option

Price spoke at UG chairs

Why this worked



Why this worked

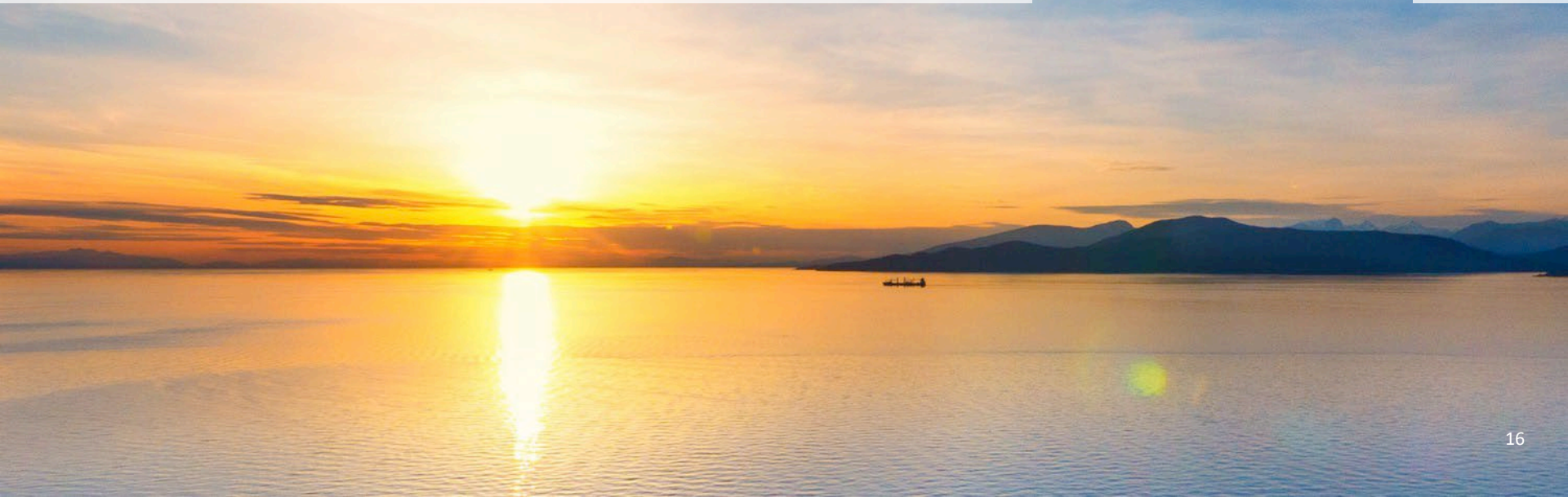
Why did this work?

- Personal relationships built on trust and shared goals and values
- Professionalism and expertise of staff and shared value of collaboration

- Arts context: declining enrolments in some disciplines, 30% int'l students, diverse range of majors - departments now coming to us

- Career Centre context: resource constraints, recognition that relationships within academic areas are critical

What’s next



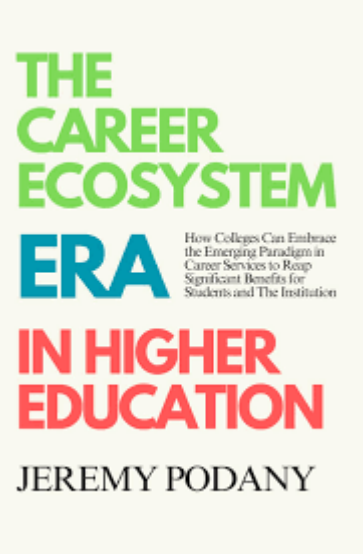
The Future – Career Ecosystem Approach

Now:

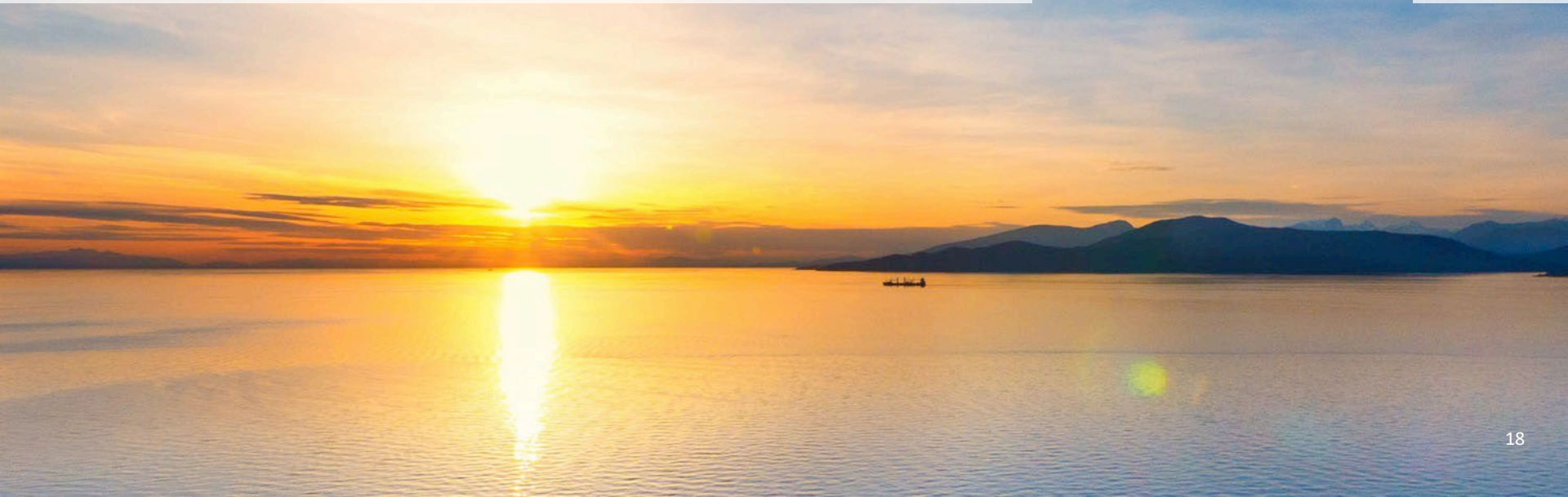
Students who most need career support are the least likely to seek it **AND** we wouldn't be able to serve them if they all came.

Future:

- Institution commits to the notion that EVERY student will experience career development and readiness.
- Institution integrates career learning into the student life cycle and develops unavoidable career milestones.



Discussion



Discussion

1. What is the context at your institution?

2. Who are your key partners/collaborators? Who could they be? What are steps you could take to develop and/or strengthen relationships?

3. Anything that resonates or surprises?

Contact us

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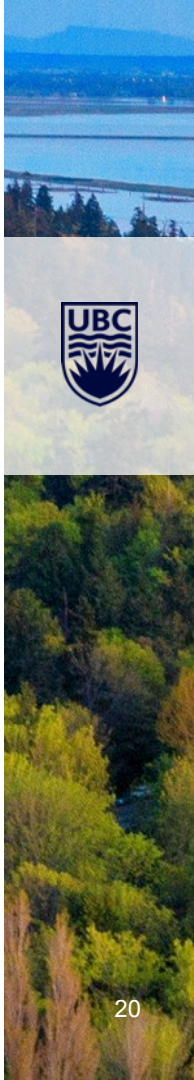

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