

Career Kick-Off University of Miami Toppel Career Center

Program Rationale

Employers consistently provide feedback that students have difficulty when making the transition from student to professional. Based on this information, we wanted to create a program that would teach students skills to help them succeed in the workplace. The goal was to do this in a fun, interactive way that incorporated employers into the program.

Program Description

Career Kick-Off is a day-long event that includes program sessions led by recruiters, an Etiquette Luncheon, and an Employer Panel. Program sessions include relevant career topics consisting of Power Networking, Marketing Your Leadership Experience, and Effective Communication in the Job Search. The Etiquette Luncheon includes a four-course meal that provides the opportunity for students to network with recruiters and master dining protocol. Finally, the attendees have a Question and Answer Session during the Employer Panel.

Corporate Sponsorship

For the past two years, Target Corporation has awarded a grant to the Toppel Career Center to cover the costs associated with Career Kick-Off. They also provide lanyards, tote bags, and notebooks branded with the Target logo for all participants.

Feedback

Student feedback from this program has been overwhelmingly positive; they especially enjoyed the Etiquette Luncheon and Employer Panel. The recruiters who participated also praised the event, and some have participated multiple times. Challenges have included securing employers for a program on a Saturday, securing ample space, and selecting a date during football season.

[Ali Rodriguez](#)

derojas@miami.edu

Associate Director for Career Development

University of Miami

Toppel Career Center

305-284-1819