Lake Forest College is featured, along with Stanford and Rutgers, for its institutional focus on career preparation in the October 2017 *The Chronicle of Higher Education* report on *Transforming the Campus Career Center: New Models for a New Era*.

“We really have decided not to leave it to chance whether or not students are going to do well after graduation.”

— Lisa Hinkley, associate vice president for career and professional development

Lake Forest College has clearly and conscientiously embraced career preparation as a key institutional goal for its undergraduate students and even takes ownership for this commitment in its mission statement. “We prepare our students for, and help them attain, productive and rewarding careers.”

**But the effort goes beyond the rhetoric.**
“Career centers can’t be sitting on the sidelines helping students with résumés and cover letters. We have to be conveners and connectors.”

Toward that end, Lake Forest College has created a Career Pathways strategy:

- Students select up to five career interest groups designed to link them with a community of other students, alumni, faculty, staff, trustees, and external college supporters.
- Interest groups include Business and Finance, Law and Public Service, Creative Arts, Science and Healthcare, and Build Your Own.
- Each interest group is headed by a professional staff member who has expertise in that area and experience outside higher education.
- The program takes students through four stages of personal exploration and career development to help them gain the skills and experiences they need, including internships, and make connections with people who can educate them and help them land meaningful jobs.

“We are very visible; we are very integrated,” Hinkley says. “If you look across our structure at Lake Forest, there isn’t an academic or administrative department that the Career Advancement Center doesn’t work closely with.”