# The CareerBound Initiative at Purdue's Krannert School of Management: Scaffolding Career Readiness & Student Development

May 24, 2022



#### Meet Your Presenter

DBA, Trident University
Research: Gratitude as an Employee
Engagement Mechanism

Certified Chief Happiness Officer



Dr. Sarah Ratekin Director, Undergraduate Student Engagement, Purdue University

US Navy Veteran (and an Army mom!)

Keynote Speaker, Mental Health & Wellbeing Advocate, Author



# Krannert School of Management at Purdue University

Undergraduates Over 2,700

Mascot The Boilermakers

Accreditation AACSB

4-year Graduation Rate 74%

Number of Programs 10

Location West Lafayette, Indiana





# A Goal Of Transforming The Undergraduate Experience

- The vision began with the Dean of the Krannert School of Management, David Hummels.
- The Dean's vision was born from the idea that no one questions the value of a Purdue education but students are struggling to see what THEY bring to Purdue.
- Goal: Let students be active partners in their own professional development.



**Krannert School of Management** 



#### The CareerBound Initiative

#### Mission

Develop tomorrow's career-ready leaders *today* through access to world-class experiences, academic opportunities and support from the Krannert community.

#### Overview

- Gamified co-curricular approach
- Portfolio of personalized professional development
- Students compete for badges, points & prizes











## The Core Competencies of Career Readiness

Career & Self Development

Communication

Critical Thinking

Equity & Inclusion

Leadership

Professionalism

Teamwork

Technology





## What Did Student Engagement Look Like Before Suitable?

Student engagement was a significant challenge

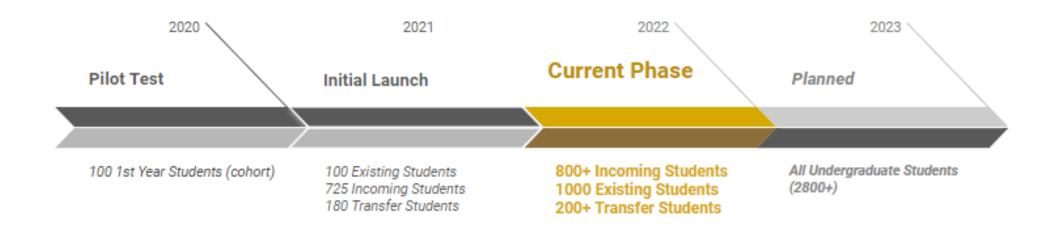
The team asked themselves: how do we give students the opportunity to engage in a way that is rewarding and fun?

No gamification or incentives



#### How The CareerBound Initiative Began

- CareerBound was built on Suitable to benchmark and measure students' proficiency.
- Gamify student engagement and make career readiness fun.
- The pilot program in 2020 gave the Dean the confidence that this could be done at scale.



#### CareerBound: Then & Now

#### 100 students



selected for the pilot program

- Learning Community (controlled)
- Embedded in Required Career Readiness Class
- 304 Total Activities completed
  - Average: 4.6 Activities per student

#### 1,005 students



Current Enrollment (2021-2022)

Undergraduate Cohort:

- 100 Existing Students (2nd Year)
- 725 Incoming Students
- 180 Transfer Students

2,015 Activities completed (last 12 months)

67% Completion of Skills Assessment

# Why Suitable?

When the team found the Suitable platform, they were excited about:

- How easy the platform is to use and engage with
- The accessibility of the data
- How flexible the platform is and how personalized it can be
- The partnership (University Success)
- Badges as an incentive

The team learned from other institutions by watching Partner Testimonials.



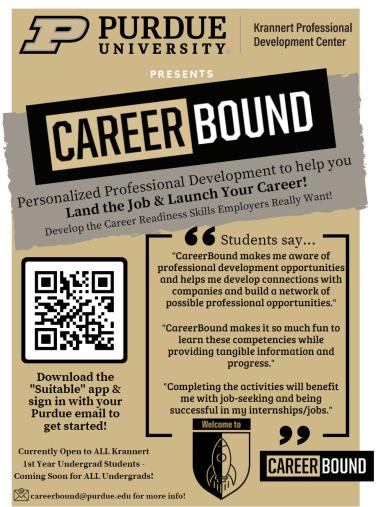
# Career Readiness: An Ongoing Journey

Embedding the skills and NACE core competencies into every level of the student experience.

CareerBound is helping students connect the dots between what they're hearing about career readiness and what they need to do to prepare for their futures.

Scaffolding career readiness.



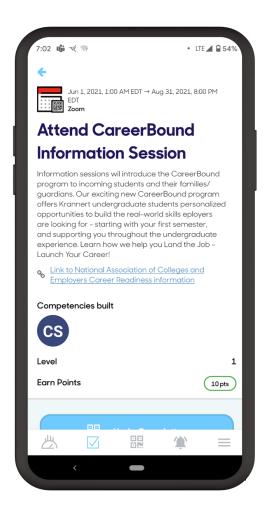




## CareerBound Today

The CareerBound initiative on Suitable puts control in the students' hands in a way that is safe and visible. It hands the baton in a way that teaches students accountability and confidence.

The program is providing personalized professional development at scale in a highly efficient manner.



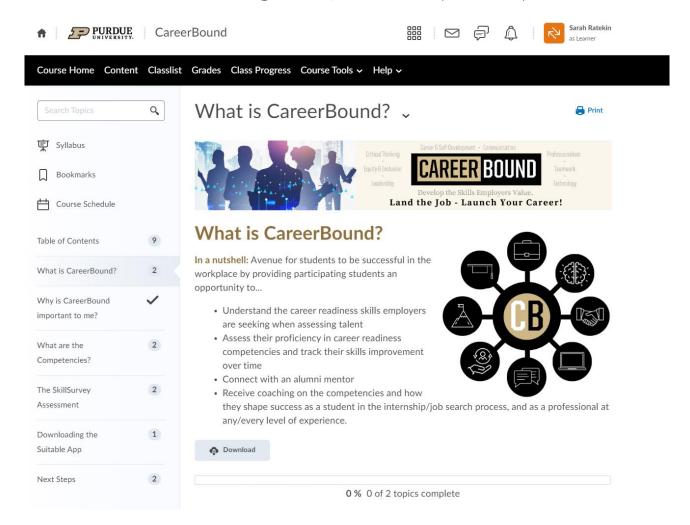


# Introducing a CareerBound Module in Brightspace (LMS)

#### Benefits:

- Introduces the program early
- Introduces competencies
- Showcases values and emphasis to employers
- Familiarize students with Suitable
- Reward participation early
- Incentivize engagement

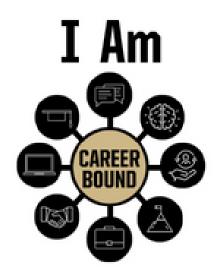






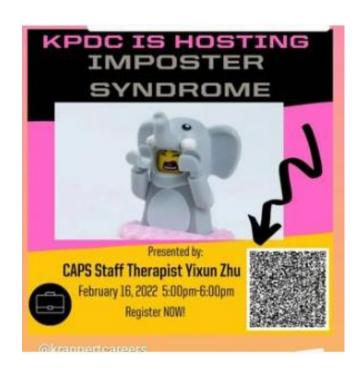
#### CareerBound & Curricula

Competency	Assignment
	Week 1 Quiz
1	Career Readiness Competencies Pre-Assessment
	Week 2 Quiz
	Week 3 Quiz
	Resume & Calibration within Circuit
	Peer Review within Circuit
	LinkedIn Assignment
	Week 5 Quiz

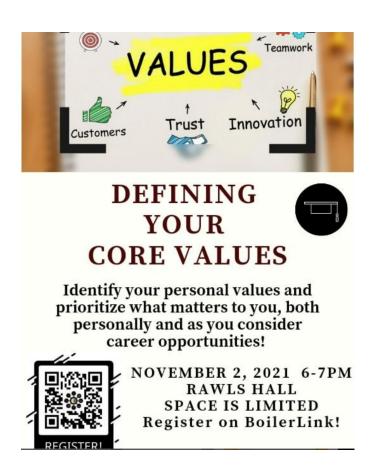


# Cultivating Resilience & Wellbeing

- Actively a component of the program, not an accidental outcome
- Promotes a sense of belonging, involvement and wellbeing









#### Student Feedback





What started off as something my advisor wanted me to try and give feedback on, is now propelling me towards career success through an internship and engagement with the app. In ways that I could not imagine, Careerbound has enhanced my critical thinking skills, diversity, equity and inclusion awareness, technology prowess, and more! I am grateful to have something like Careerbound in my undergraduate journey because the professional world can be daunting and Careerbound makes it so much fun to learn these competencies while providing you tangible information and progress. I am so empowered by the Careerbound team as well as my fellow ambitious peers who I need to learn from. I am excited to see the value Careerbound brings to students and I bring to it:)



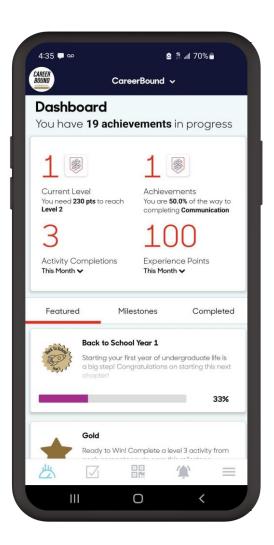


Through Career Bound I have found that there are a bevy of opportunities to strengthen my career readiness at Purdue. Career Bound helps facilitate this by putting different activities into the career competencies so you can directly see what competency you are strengthening when doing an activity. Overall, I feel much more prepared for my future endeavors thanks to Career Bound.

I got started in Career Bound because I found that many activities on the app, I had already done so it just got the ball rolling and made me want to continue to complete more activities and become more well-rounded in the career competencies. I chose to stay engaged enough to become #I on the Leaderboard because I think completing the activities will benefit me in the future when it comes to job-seeking and being successful in my internship/jobs.

#### **Short Term Plans**

- Goal of 50% of students completing at least one badge every year
- Grow the current engagement rate of 67%
- Looking to launch 3 new badges each year within the Suitable platform
- Increase career coaching appts by 50%
- Collaborate with the new Honors program





## Long Term Vision

- 1. Launch a student resilience team incentivize participation get students to give feedback
- AACSB accreditation connecting competencies to accreditation
- Get in front of students in a way that speaks their language and matters to them
- 4. Use the data for recruiting purposes
- Use retention data to identify at-risk students and intervene earlier
- 6. Identify earlier opportunities for career exploration, career readiness and career learning



## Key Takeaways

- Key Stakeholder Engagement = Success
- Employer Connection = Success
- Experiment with new things and see what works
- Leverage the experts and learn from other institutions
- Voice of the students
- Meet your students where they're at
- Get creative!









# Thank you!

Any Questions?

Sarah Ratekin <u>sratekin@purdue.edu</u> <u>careerbound@purdue.edu</u>

