

# IGNITE CHANGE. GO GREEN.

## **Staff Spotlight:**

### **Christie Vuoto, Assistant Director of Employer Relations in the Villanova Career Center**

This interview series brings you inside the world of Villanova staff and explores how they provide resources for the campus community to reach a sustainable future. In this issue we hear from Christie Vuoto, an assistant director of employer relations in the Career Center.

#### **What is your academic and career background?**

I am proudly from Bucks County, PA, and recently moved back to the area. My undergraduate degree is in psychology from Loyola University Maryland, which sparked my social and environmental interests. After college, I moved to New York City and completed a year of service at a non-profit community agency. I completed my master's degree in Counseling for Mental Health and Wellness from NYU. It was here that I developed my passion for career development. My first opportunity to explore this passion was at Fordham University's Career Services in employer engagement and career counseling, specifically working with public sector employers and students.



#### **In your own words, how would you define sustainability and why is it important to you?**

Sustainability is often tough to grasp because it can be used in so many different domains – agriculture, corporate business, environment (wind, solar, water), engineering, etc. For this reason, I view sustainability more as a mindset than an industry. Sustainability is relevant and transferable to all industries. It is dynamic and progressive and all inclusive.

#### **How does your role support a sustainable future?**

My role in the Career Center was created, in part, to work more closely with organizations that have a social impact. That includes non-profit and government agencies and environmental and corporate sustainability organizations. With the help of excellent campus partners and resources, I am continually learning about sustainability and am able to get more of these opportunities posted on our job board, Handshake. As a result, students have more immediate access to these types of positions.

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## **What resources exist to support students interested in sustainable careers?**

Students can absolutely use the Career Center as a resource. We have a team of Career Counselors that are knowledgeable on the job/internship search process, resume and cover letter reviews, and just general career exploration. As I mentioned, we are continually working to bring these opportunities to our students through Handshake and employer relationships.

## **What advice do you have for students just finishing their freshman year and students who are getting ready to graduate?**

I am a big believer in the power of discernment. College can be a very transformative time full of self-discovery, so it is good to be aware of these changes and reflect upon their meaning.

At the end of a student's first-year of college, I encourage them to look back on the activities they got involved in inside and outside of the classroom. What did they learn about themselves? Continue being curious and involved and start to reflect on how to translate those curiosities into passions.

For students about to graduate, reflect upon their years at Villanova. Hopefully they have developed new interests, can identify what they are good at, and have steadfast values. Maybe they can even take it a step further and can translate that into a fulfilling job or career. If not, no worries, come talk it out with us at the Career Center!



## **What are your favorite hobbies outside of work?**

I recently moved to Center City Philadelphia so love exploring the area and going to different restaurants and concert venues. I am also a huge "Rocky" fanatic so you can often find me running up and down the Art Museum steps.