

January 19, 2017

To whom it may concern,

In October 2015, I approached the director of our *Center for Sustainability and the Environment*, about an idea I had to create a career clothing exchange on campus. Some of our students had reported problems with having clothing appropriate for the kinds of professional experiences that my office helps to facilitate. I knew that the Sustainability Center operated the *Bargain Basement*, an exchange location for casual student clothing, housewares, res hall room furnishings, costumes, and craft supplies. This exchange area is located in a campus building that is open and accessible 24/7 during the academic year. I thought that same free access loaner model could work well for the sort of professional clothing exchange I envisioned.

The Center director was enthusiastic in her support for my idea, feeling this would enhance the offerings in the *Bargain Basement*. Together, we worked with the *Office of Facilities* to obtain garment racks, hangers, and display shelving. Once our exchange infrastructure was in place, I put out the call to our campus community for donations of professional-level clothing and shoes and our new *Career Clothing Exchange* was off and running in early 2016.

My office periodically issues a call for donations to the *Career Clothing Exchange*, especially ahead of the spring semester, when many seniors intensify their job search activities. During the *Trash2Treasure* move-out collections, sponsored by the *Office of Residential Life* and the *Center for Sustainability and the Environment* at the end of each semester, donated garments and shoes are evaluated for their appropriateness for the *Career Clothing Exchange* and the Exchange is re-stocked accordingly.

The *Career Clothing Exchange* has offered an on-campus location for members of the Wells College and local community to donate still-usable professional-level clothing and footwear, helping to strengthen the perceived value of reuse and recycling. Most importantly, the *Career Clothing Exchange* offers our Wells students the opportunity to – at no cost - borrow garments suitable for career-building activities such as corporate office internship placements and job interviews. Many students have expressed their gratitude for this unique form of support for their professional development.

Respectfully ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alicin Welsh', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Alicin Welsh, director
Office of Experiential Learning and Career Services