Formally initiated in 1954, Purdue’s Office of Professional Practice (OPP) strives for national leadership in supplying work-integrated learning experiences for students and innovating new approaches to the development of practical learning opportunities. OPP is housed in the College of Engineering but serves a cross-campus population of eight colleges and 48 academic disciplines.

Our programs, which include 5-Session Co-Op, 3-Session Co-Op, Master’s Co-Op, Internships/Research Experiences, and GEARE (Global Engineering Alliance for Research and Education), combine on-the-job experiences with the classroom training of a four-year college curriculum.

Co-Op is a formal plan of education in which students alternate sessions of full-time work with sessions of on-campus study. Co-Op and internships help students integrate theory and practice, confirm career choices, investigate potential job opportunities, and become better graduates.

This is affirmed by the Gallup-Purdue Index, which found that 71% of recent graduates who participated in academically relevant work experience were employed full time at graduation. The study also found that those same graduates were twice as likely to be engaged in the workplace. OPP programs directly influence those outcomes!

**Unique to Purdue is OPP’s GEARE program.** Purdue’s flagship global engineering program, GEARE provides a one-of-a-kind opportunity to integrate study abroad, language and cultural training, domestic and international work/research experiences, and global design team projects into the four-year engineering curriculum. By facilitating cross-cultural collaboration, GEARE prepares Purdue graduates to be global leaders in industry and academia.

Our programs are thriving: enrollment over the last five years is up 75%, and OPP now serves approximately 1,200 students. Steeped in real-world practice, these students are prized by industry and graduate ready to contribute from day one. OPP also serves more than 500 employers from private industry and government agencies. These gains are due to our drive to deliver programs that provide the professional experiences that equip students for success.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Our goal is to grow participation in the OPP programs to 1,500 students per academic year by 2018. To make our programs as accessible for students as possible, OPP and our students are starting an endowment fundraising campaign for the OPP Impact Fund.

Through this fund, we will eliminate the Co-Op registration fee and finance the Office of Professional Practice independently of University resources. The OPP Impact Fund will enable us to increase the number of students we serve and generate the necessary funds to develop courses and provide resources needed for the creation of innovative student development programs and services.

OPP’s programs provide Purdue students the competitive edge they need to succeed and to contribute in their professional lives. Your gift, through *Ever True: The Campaign for Purdue University*, helps make these opportunities affordable for all students. Join us in support of the OPP Impact Fund!