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A Note From Cherrydale: Getting in the Loop

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Getting in The Loop

Have you ever wanted a catalog of resources developed around alumni professional development? Well, the wait is over! I am excited to share that in the spring, the Alumni and Parent Engagement Office will launch our newest personal and professional development resource suite, The Loop. The Loop will house an archive of information that highlights fellow alumni experiences and best practices in the pursuit of success. It will serve as a networking space that allows you to connect with those individuals one-on-one while accessing tools to help you emulate their path. Everyone has been at a crossroad in their career—wondering what is next, what steps to take, and who to turn to—this is our response to that need.

The creative concept underlying The Loop speaks to the camaraderie, community, and collective knowledge that exists within the Furman Alumni Network. Implied in the name is a calling to stay “in the loop” or “get in the loop.” It is a unique privilege to be “in the loop” and have exclusive access

to this alumni community, as such we felt called to elevate that experience for all those connected to that gift. The programmatic framework that supports The Loop includes an alumni video series, alumni career spotlights, and online networking receptions. In the future, we look forward to adding webinars, coaching, and mentoring programs.

The alumni video series, hosted on the Furman YouTube channel, will bring a panel of experts together on a myriad of topics. Panelists will provide guidance and insights while discussing what they have learned on their journey. Through moderated conversation they will be invited to share their experiences and “ah-ha” moments, in addition to industry best practices. Topics will include, but are not limited to, preparation for graduate school, how to network for success, definition of work-life balance, entrepreneurship, and career transitions. If there are certain topics you would like to see, please let us know. These resources are being built to serve you and we welcome your feedback.

Our career spotlight series will highlight everyday alumni successes. The spotlights will leverage two approaches. One approach will include an archive of articles written about our alumni. The articles will have a career focus and will articulate how our alumni got to where they are—what they studied, what books they recommend, experience with mentors, and other advice about pursuing a similar path. The second approach will have a more question/answer format wherein our alumni tell their own stories. Both will allow us to celebrate and learn from the incredible successes that exist within our community, while allowing the reader to develop their skill set from the comfort of their “home office.”

The final component of The Loop is Furman Connect, an online networking program that will join alumni around the globe without boundary of topic or geography. Our goal is to host a power-hour session on the third Thursday of every month. We hosted our first Furman Connect event in July on the “Broad

Brushstrokes of Business”. Registered participants were able to engage with one another over text-based conversations across five industries, as well as within an open forum. Strategically leveraging this new technology, we look forward to elevating the networking experience for the ultimate success of the Furman community. Future programs will create space for connection by region, major, class year, or topic amongst alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and students.

With the introduction of The Loop, the Furman community will have access to special resources, information, networking opportunities, and professional development like never before. The sky is the limit with the addition of these resources. Please visit our website to learn more about what events and opportunities we have on the horizon. As always, we welcome any feedback or recommendations as we continue to develop our incredible suite of offerings. ●

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