Jake Hughes, University of Florida chemical engineering major & packaging science minor ‘19, was hired by WestRock as a paper mill process engineer after serving in student internships with the company. “I had a chance to attend an ICPF Student Dialogue Dinner that exposed me to just how broad the industry is and how strong the companies are. Since then I have been an official ICPF student representative at University of Florida and have been able to bring other UF students into the corrugated packaging network.”

Marybeth Greene, Indiana State graphic design with minors in packaging design and computer aided design & drafting ’19, was hired by Tavens Packaging & Display Solutions as a packaging & graphic designer, “ICPF is a fantastic tool for the college student to make that networking connection that is necessary in today’s world when on the job hunt. I was looking for a career where I could make an impact, but also where I could learn a great deal and be a member of a team that cares about their employees. I never would have found that if it without ICPF. ICPF connected me with 4 openings, eventually leading to my accepting a position at Tavens, where I have found exactly what I was looking for.” Tavens’ president, Michael Schaefer adds “Today’s labor pool is difficult to negotiate and acquiring the best people for our business has been one of our biggest challenges. The ICPF has allowed Tavens to more easily identify and network with the box professionals of the future. Through ICPF’s guidance, when we found the qualities we wanted in a future Tavens employee, we put aside corporate red tape and pursued that talent……..it was a seamless hiring experience.”

Jacob Businger, Bowling Green State Visual Communications Technology with packaging focus ‘19, was hired by Landaal Packaging as a digital print production supervisor. “ICPF was an invaluable resource in searching for my career. Thanks to ICPF’s Teleconference and student/executive dinner, my passion for the industry was able to grow. I obtained a package design co-op at Green Bay Packaging using ICPF resources. I was able to find the position at Landaal via the career portal on ICPF’s website, and I could not be more excited to start my new career!”

Taylor Jensen, Michigan State Packaging Engineering ‘19 was hired by Landaal Packaging as a sales development associate after an earlier student designer internship there. “Using ICPF’s career portal, I obtained my first student internship which was at Landaal Packaging Systems as a packaging designer. This experience helped me decide that I wanted to pursue the corrugated industry upon graduation. I also served as the student moderator of ICPF’s 2019 Teleconference and attended the Student /Executive Dinner. Both provided me insight to the opportunities in corrugated sales and generated several career offers in the corrugated industry, including the sales career opening I accepted at Landaal Packaging Systems. Thank you ICPF!”
Mark Landaal is VP of the In-Store Division at the Landaal Packaging Innovation Center. “Landaal Packaging has been successfully using ICPF hiring resources since 2011 and started using the ICPF career portal 4 years ago to specifically recruit and hire for our 6-month structural design internship. We were always satisfied with the quality and character of the intern candidates, knowing they were especially interested in a career in corrugated packaging. Recently we have used the ICPF portal to hire full-time positions within our organization where a recent graduate’s skill set and desire for career growth would be a perfect fit. We saw that recent graduates available through the ICPF portal have the necessary technical skills to be successful, but more importantly they demonstrated an interest and drive to develop their career in the corrugated industry.”

Erin Wilson, Virginia Tech Packaging Systems & Design ’20 and VT Packaging Club President, is a 2019 summer student intern at Buckeye Corrugated, Inc. “I used the ICPF career portal to acquire my first packaging focused internship with AICC. ICPF also assisted me in securing a winter break internship with Pratt Industries. My older brother, Clay, who is a 2018 VT packaging grad, had used the ICPF portal in 2017 to gain his full time position at BCI.

Carolyn Cook, Michigan State packaging engineering ’19, was hired by Smurfit Kappa as a packaging & design trainee. “I am grateful for the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation for introducing me to all the opportunities there are within the corrugated industry; especially the ICPF career portal, which equipped me with the necessary resources to land my dream position!”

Ryan Litzinger, Clemson Packaging Science ’19, was hired by WestRock to work in the quality and safety arena. He also is considering corrugated sales for the future. He was introduced to ICPF by his professor and we met him at Pack Expo in 2017 where ICPF staff invited him to meet the ICPF Board of Directors and participate in the upcoming Teleconference. “Through the ICPF board meeting I received several internship offers, which included the 2018 summer internship I conducted at WestRock. The internship, along with my teleconference experience, led to my career here. The February 2018 ICPF teleconference was a great way to see how innovative ideas from students can have a real and practical affect in the industry. It was an eye-opening experience to see the connection between e-commerce, sustainability, and the next generation of corrugated manufacturers. As a proponent of corrugated, I served as the ICPF student representative at Clemson packaging in 2018 and the first half of 2019.”
Retention includes recruiting the right match. Kevin Talamantes, Clemson Graphics Communications Dec. 2017 will be entering his third year as a packaging designer at Lawrence Paper in Kansas. “I first heard of the ICPF resources through my professor. I created an account, attached my resume and started searching for open positions. The career portal was easy to navigate and led to my career here at Lawrence Paper Company.” The Lawrence Paper Company in Lawrence, and its two divisions JayHawk and American, have successfully used ICPF to recruit new graduates. Mike Cordaro, design & tech service manager indicated that “The ICPF Career Portal was very helpful. I was looking for people with interest in corrugated packaging and had an aptitude and willingness to learn the skills to be a packaging designer. I was able to both post the opening on the career portal and search the student database to identify potential candidates. I was very happy to have found Kevin and have enjoyed watching him become a very valuable member of our design team.”