



Bren Career Development Program Kickoff

Maximizing Your Impact: Introduction to Career Development + BrenConnect

Presenters: Amanda Asquith-Caya and Annie Adams

Date: September 2, 2026

Land Acknowledgment



Agenda

- 1 Our Why
- 2 Meet Your Career Team
- 3 Bren Career Development Program
- 4 BrenConnect
- 5 Next Steps + Action Items

"At Bren, prioritizing your career development isn't just an available perk—it's a way of life steeped into our ethos as a professional program and community of change-makers serious about solving environmental problems..."

Our Why

1. Prepare you to navigate the job search process successfully now and in the future
2. Share strategies, techniques, and tips to equip you with the tools to manage your career effectively along the way
3. To help you feel more empowered and confident going into your job search and taking the next intentional step in your career

Ultimately maximizing your impact—Thank YOU!

Bren Career Team

Meet Your Career Team



Amanda Asquith-Caya (she/her)

Executive Director, Career Development & Alumni Relations



- 2.5 years at Bren! (7+ years at UCSB)
- M.S. in Counselor Education and M.A. in History
- B.A. in History from UCLA
- 11+ years experience in career development, advising, employer relations, higher education
- Fun facts: I'm a proud New Englander, transfer student, and cat mom to two kitties!
- My why: Helping environmental students from all backgrounds bridge the space between education and career

Monica Illes

Career Development and Alumni Relations Program Manager



- 11.5 years at Bren on the career team!
- B.A. in English (Literature) and minor in Professional Writing
- Have helped 12 Bren graduating classes! Background in writing tutoring, multimedia communication, business/marketing writing.
- Fun facts: I am a Santa Barbara County native, enjoy running (including occasional 5ks/half marathons), and have Danish and Hungarian roots (my Danish grandpa co-founded a bakery in Solvang, just a little ways up north)!
- My why: Some of my favorite moments are when I can help relieve students' career and job-search-related stress or anxiety by providing the info, advice, or encouragement they need!

Annie Adams (she/her)

MEDS Lecturer



- 3rd year at Bren! I also teach Undergrad Statistics at UCSB
- BS in Statistics & Data Science (UCSB), MS in Environmental Data Science :)
- Focus on Science Communication and Education
- Fun facts: I love to mountain bike, craft, and play cribbage (not to be confused with quidditch!)
- My Why: I struggled through statistics classes taught by professors more invested in their research than teaching, which made an already complex subject even harder to grasp. I became a TA when getting my masters and loved helping students understand difficult topics and debug their. That gratification is what makes me excited to show up everyday.

Sam Shanny-Csik (she/her)

MEDS Data Training & Capstone Coordinator



- 6 years at Bren / NCEAS
- MS in Marine Ecology, Evolution & Marine Biology, UCSB
- Background in research / marine ecophysiology (corals & lobsters!)
- Fun facts: I just got back from my (belated) honeymoon, hiking Alta Via 1 in the Dolomites! I'll always be an East-coaster at heart, and have 2 cats and a dog <3
- My Why: I was totally terrified of all things data and programming as a graduate student, but thanks to a supportive community and truly inspiring instructors, I discovered a deep appreciation and excitement for the field. That transformation motivated me to make the leap into data science education, and continues to shape the way I teach and support learners today.

Tell us a little
about you!

1. Name and pronouns
2. Your unique fact from orientation (or another fact about you!)



Bren Career Development Program

Bren Career Development Program

Roadmap for Success

Strategically designed program to help you:

- Develop and enhance lifelong career development skills
- Build and grow a lifelong professional network

Things to get excited for!

- Workshops
- Portfolio Development
- Weekly Emails
- Guest Speakers
- Online Resources
- Networking Connections
- 1-on-1 Advising



Bren Career Development Program

Roadmap for Success



Bren Career Development Program

Academic Program & Career Services Integration



Common goal: a coherent, polished, professional narrative & identity that highlights your career readiness skills



technical portfolio
(Annie & Sam)

+

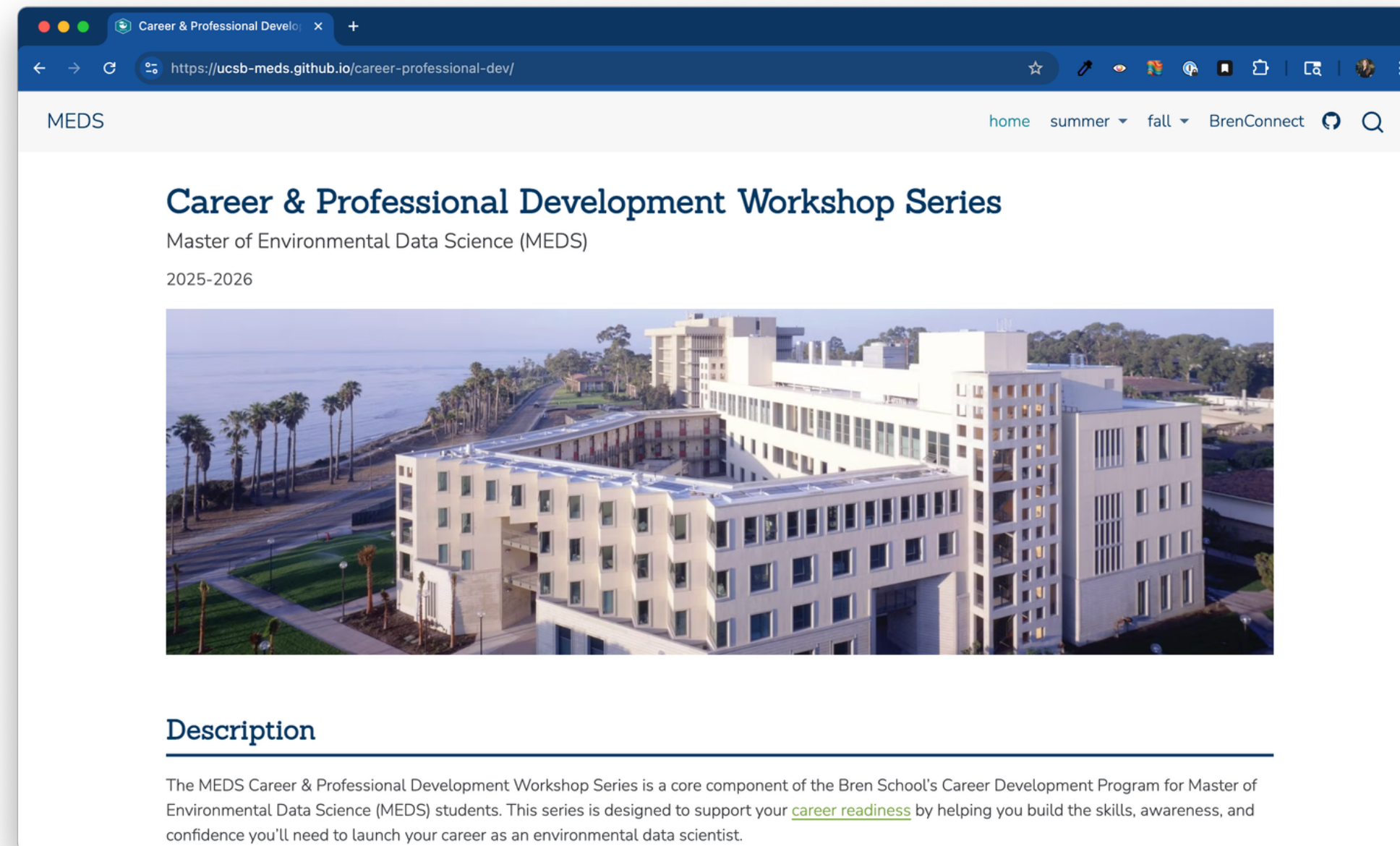


career advising & training
(Amanda & Monica)



Bren Career Development Program

Workshop Website



<https://ucsb-meds.github.io/career-professional-dev/>



Bren Career Development Program

Career & Professional Development Workshops/Events



Summer

- Program Kickoff

Orientation

- Resumes
- Personal Website + GitHub Portfolio

Fall

- AI
- Networking
- Website Customization
- Fall EDS Panel
- Blogging

Winter & Spring

- Job Search Strategy
- Cover Letters
- Interviewing
- Salary Negotiations
- Winter + Spring Career Panels



Bren Career Development Program

Career & Professional Development Workshops/Events



- MEDS Calendar (Career Timeslot)
- Weekly Email (Activities Section)
- Google Calendar (Individual Invitations)

Calendar interface showing a weekly view for September and October 2025. The calendar displays various events as orange blocks.

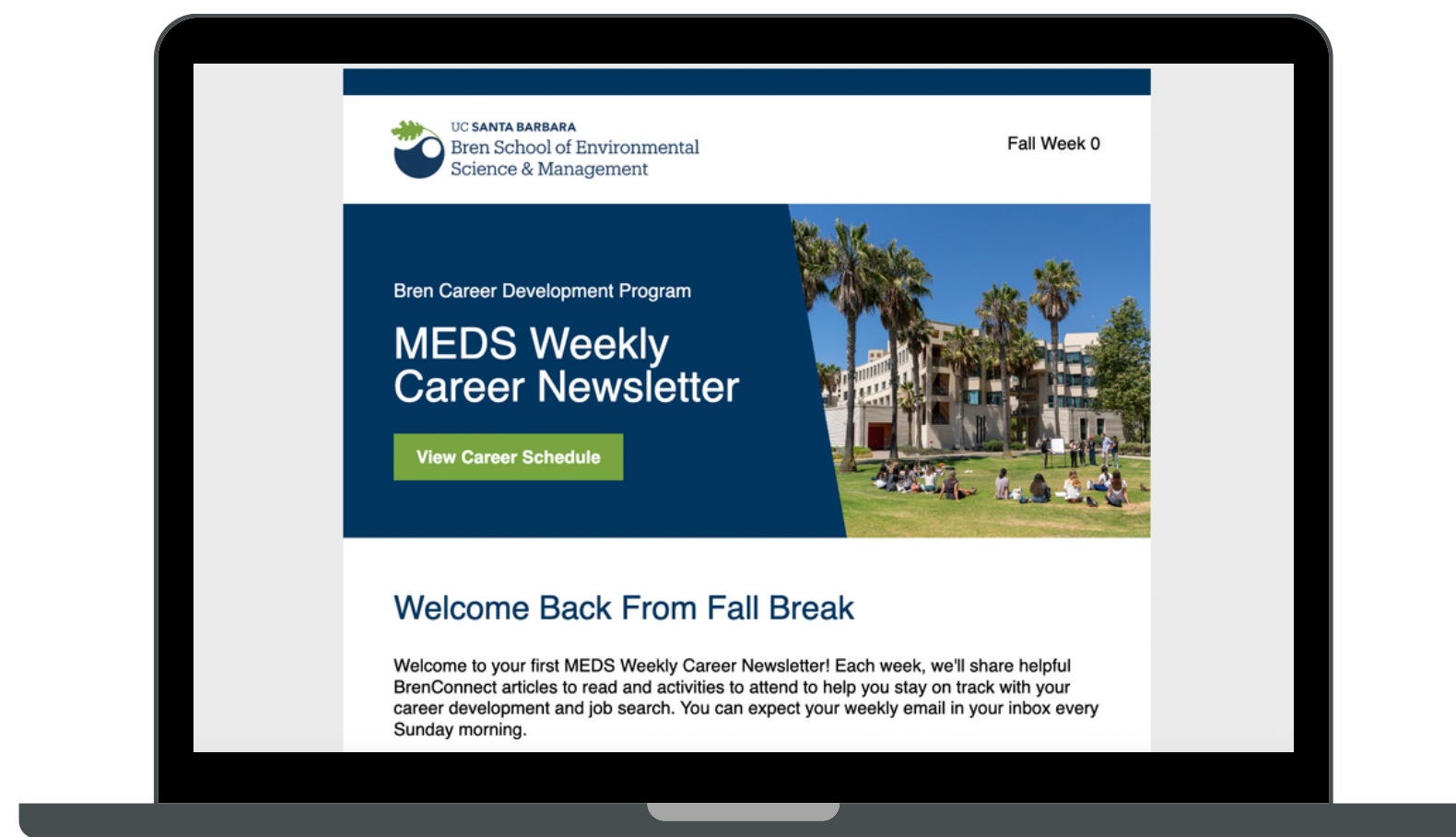
Events shown:

- EDS 222 (Czapanskiy) 9:30 – 10:45am bren-rm-seminar1424, bren-calendar-meds
- Bren Seminar 11am – 12pm
- EDS 222-L1 12:30 – 1:50pm bren-rm-scfbig3022a, bren-calendar-meds
- EDS 220 (Galaz García) 9:30 – 10:45am bren-rm-seminar1424, bren-calendar-meds
- EDS 222 (Czapanskiy) 9:30 – 10:45am bren-rm-seminar1424, bren-calendar-meds
- MEDS Career Workshop 11am – 12:45pm SCF
- EDS 223 (Adams) 8 – 9:15am bren-rm-seminar1424, bren-calendar-meds
- EDS 223-L1 9 – 10:20am bren-rm-scfbig3022a, bren-calendar-meds
- EDS 220-L1 10:30 – 11:50am bren-rm-scfbig3022a, bren-calendar-meds



Bren Career Development Program

Career Newsletter



Weekly Reads

- BrenConnect Articles

Career & Professional Development Workshops/Events:

- Time slot on Wednesdays starting at 11am in the SCF

Please don't unsubscribe from Constant Contact!





Bren Career Services

Bren Career Development Program

Career Advising Services



You can meet with our team to talk about:

- Career Exploration / Planning
- Networking
- Job/Internship Search Strategy
- Document Reviews (Resumes, Cover Letters, CVs)
- Mock Interviews / Interview Preparation
- Offer Evaluation / Salary Negotiations



Bren Career Development Program

Career Advising Services



- Check out our How-To page to book an appointment via Google Calendar
- Please do not message us via Slack for career guidance or to request an appointment
- Quick question? Email us at career@bren.ucsb.edu
- Response Time:
 - Urgent requests: 1-2 business days (24-48 business hours)
 - Non-urgent requests: 2-4 business days



Bren Career Development Program

Career Advising Services



Open-door policy!

We will also hold two mandatory 1-on-1 appointments* during the year:

- Career Planning & Initial Resume Discussion Appointment in the fall
 - You can use Quinncia to prep!
- Job Search Check-In + Resume Review Appointment in the winter



*We will send you information in the fall and winter (when the time comes) on how to sign up for these appointments.



Bren Career Development Program

Career Advising Services - Document Reviews



For document reviews specifically:

- You will receive invitations to your shared Career folder in Box by the end of the week (all UCSB students have free access to Box)
- Use Quinncia to assist with first-pass resume reviews - invitation after Resume Workshop
- When requesting additional document review (e.g., 2nd-pass resumes, cover letter, CV, etc), please upload your materials (as Word documents) to your shared Box folder at least 48 business hours prior to your appointment)





Learn, Grow, and Innovate Together
with BrenConnect



The Bren Network

BrenConnect

- Powered by Salesforce
- 2000+ people on the Bren Alumni & Student Finder
- 150+ Career Articles
- Job & Internship Boards
- Services & Advising Information





How to Sign Up BrenConnect

1. Go to <https://brenconnect.force.com/s/>
2. Create an account, you have 2 options:
 - **SSO** (use UCSB Google account)
 - **Unique username & password** (use @ucsb.edu email, NOT @bren.ucsb.edu email)
3. **Update profile:**
 - Add work & education history
 - Add a professional headshot
 - Start exploring!





Single Sign On

Unique User Name
& Password



(No registration required to use Social Sign-On!)

Or log in with a unique BrenConnect username/password
[\(Register Here\)](#)

 Email

 Password

Log in

[Forgot password?](#)

Having trouble logging in?
[Learn more about BrenConnect](#)
[Terms of Use](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Next Steps + Action Items



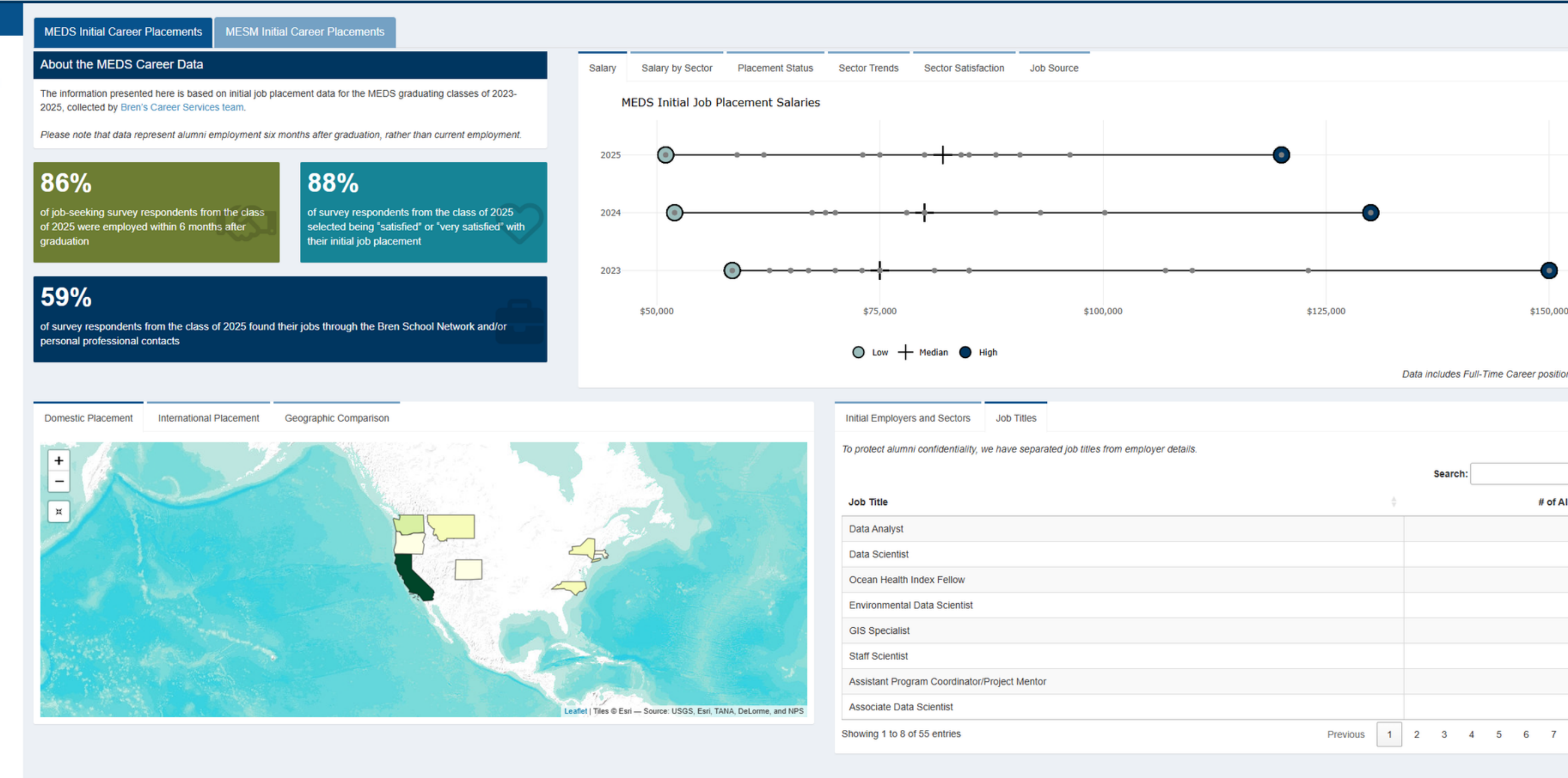
Next Steps

Action Items

1. **Sign up for BrenConnect**
 - Update your profile
 - Start exploring!
2. **Accept invitations to your shared career Box folder and Google Calendar career events**
 - You'll get invitations via email from our coordinator, Daisy Martinez
3. **Download Word (desktop version)**
 - [UCSB-Microsoft Office 365 Resources](#)
4. **Upload your initial resume to your shared career Box folder before Monday, Sept. 21st**

Curious to Learn More?

Bren Data Explorer



THANK YOU!

Questions?

