aCRN anthropology
CAREER READINESS NETWORK

NETWORK-WIDE

Virtual Meeting

Newcomers welcome!

aCRN

January 22, 2026
4:00 p.m. Eastern

Welcome!

- To our first time participants
- To our returning members

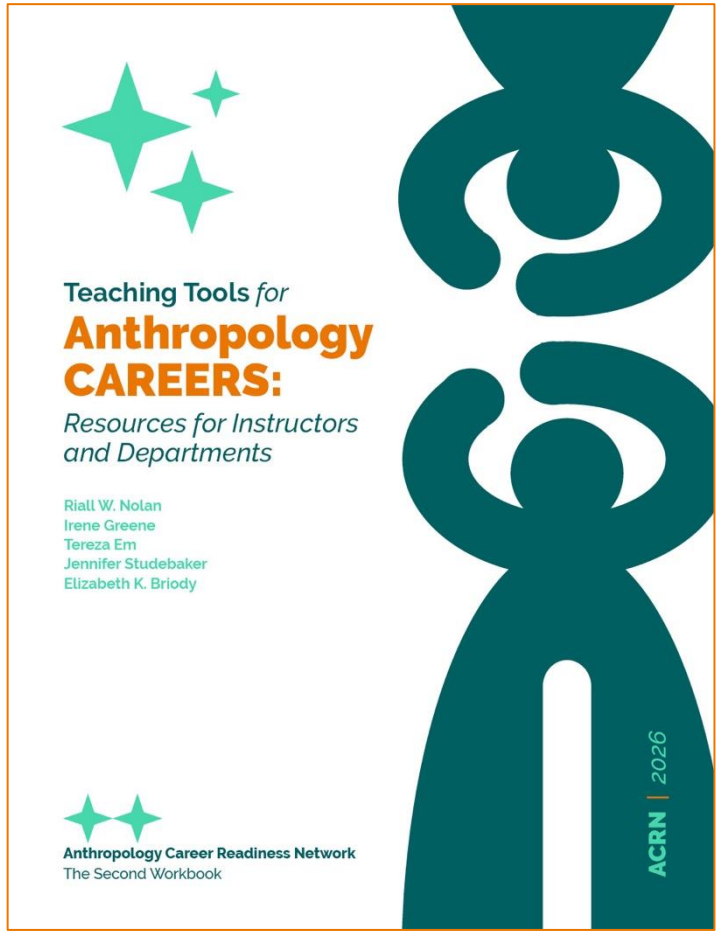
Agenda

1. New ACRN Book In Press
2. DAI Award Winners
3. Spring DAI Campus Visits
4. Linguistics Career Launch
5. Discussion
6. Updates

New ACRN Book In Press

Riall Nolan

This book was designed with anthropology departments and professors in mind



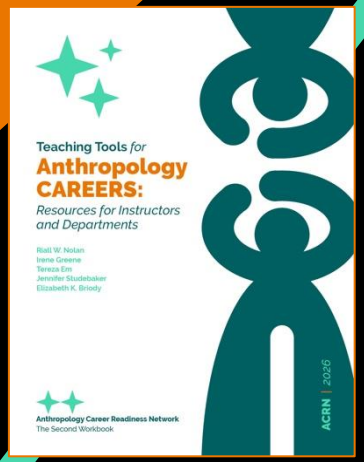
- Book's Focus:
  - Moving Your Department Ahead
  - Building Career Readiness into Your Courses
  - Securing Your Gains through Institutionalization
- Contributions from 25 authors and 5 editors
- Inclusion of 35 tools:
  - 23 tools for departments (13 are new and not available on on ACRN's website)
  - 12 tools for instructors
- Expected publication: February 2026 at cost of about $15 on amazon

These testimonials emphasize connecting the university and the workplace

- "*Teaching Tools for Anthropology Careers* provides exactly what our discipline needs right now—clear, practical, and innovative **tools that connect anthropological education to real-world practice**, equipping students with the professional skills they need to thrive after college and also shape the future of the discipline."
  -Kaitlyn M. Brown, Assistant Professor, California State University, Northridge

- "ACRN has developed another fantastic resource—this time, one that **fills a critical need for anthropology departments and faculty** to effectively prepare students for the wide range of careers available to them using anthropological skills and knowledge."
  -Cynthia Grace-McCaskey, Associate Professor, East Carolina University

- "*Teaching Tools for Anthropology Careers* shows **how the experiences of anthropologists working across a wide range of careers can be translated into teaching** that helps the next generation thrive in an even wider range of careers."
  -Michael Wesch, Professor and University Distinguished Teaching Scholar, Kansas State University



DAI Award Winners

Jennifer Studebaker

ACRN helped launch a $1,000 DAI Award with COPAA of SfAA and AAA

- **Purpose:** Learn to offer sustainable programs incorporating career readiness, thereby preparing students for the workplace
- **How DAI Works:** Submitting your application and welcoming two ACRN facilitators to your campus to kick off the DAI's focus—implementing your own customized career readiness plan
- **Eligibility:**
  - Departments/Programs are members of AAA's Departmental Services Program
    or
  - Submitter is a member of SfAA
- **Application Deadline:** December 1

Find DAI Details here

We are fortunate to have seven 2026 DAI Award winners

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA CHARLOTTE

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

Teachers College COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY

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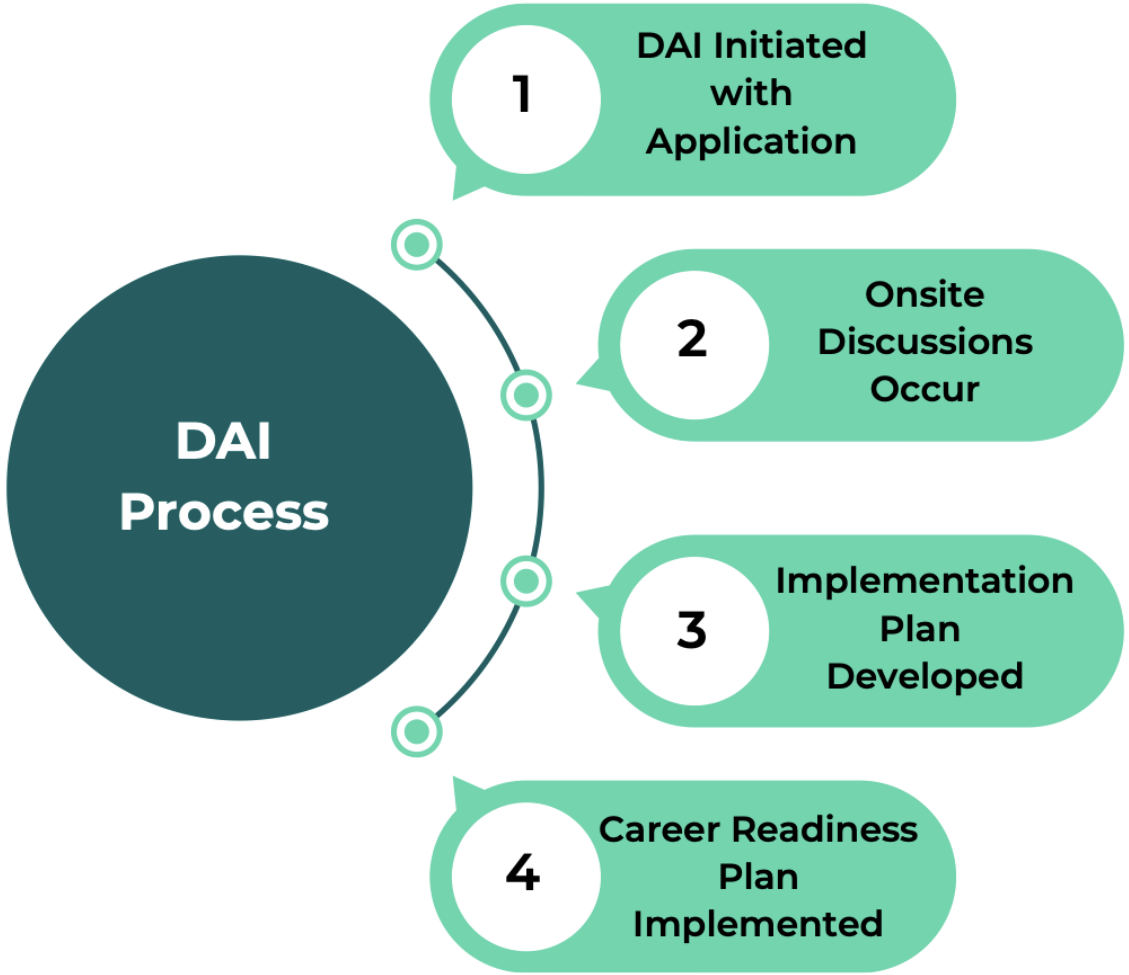
Spring DAI Campus Visits

Elizabeth Briody

We are beginning 2026 with eight programs

DAI Program	Campus Visit
U of IL, Chicago	February 4-6
St. Cloud State	February 11-13
UNC Charlotte	February 18-20
RI College	February 23-25
Teachers College	March 4-6
Bates College	March 4-6
U of Memphis	April 8-10
Kennesaw State	April 15-17



These programs vary in size and concerns

University	Selected Features	DAI Focus
U. of Illinois, Chicago	• Public: 36,000 students • Dept. of Anthropology • 91 majors, 11 MA, 39 PhD students	• Redesign UG and grad curriculum • Provide clearer UG pathways for minors, certificates, etc. • Establish a shared, forward-looking Dept. vision
St. Cloud State U.	• Public: 10,000 students • Dept of Anthropology • 20 majors, 7 MA students	• Strengthen career readiness content in curriculum, including better communication with Career Services • Educate administrators, advisors, prospective students and parents on career opportunities for majors • Develop strategies to connect Anthropology to local businesses and organizations
U. of North Carolina, Charlotte	• Public: 32,000 students • Dept. of Anthropology • 99 majors, 36 MA students	• Build and support our applied tracks • Recruit more students and prepare them for a difficult job market • Engage our alumni more
Rhode Island College	• Public: 6,000 students • Dept. of Anthropology • 20 majors	• Rethink the major to prepare student for employment • Communicate the relevance of anthropology to students, administrators

Program are often aware of solutions to their own issues

University	Selected Features	DAI Focus
Teachers College	• Private: 4,400 students • International and Transcultural Studies Dept. • 37 MA, 31 PhD students	• Develop new MA and EdM degrees in Applied Anthropology • Make decision about unique brand of applied anthropology • Identify additional (career?) pathways
Bates College	• Private: 1,800 students • Dept of Anthropology • 13 majors	• Make changes in introductory course – where theory meets practice • Adjust the thesis requirement so that it incorporates career preparation • Create opportunities to connect students with professional experiences, integrating them into the curriculum
U. of Memphis	• Public: 22,000 students • Dept. of Anthropology • 48 majors, 20 MA students	• Increase UG enrollment • Communicate value of program to administrators • Guidance on reaching out to alumni and on fundraising
Kennesaw State U.	• Public: 48,000 students • Dept. of Geography & Anthropology • 147 majors	• Enhance community partnerships • Engage alumni • Advise students early in the major about career paths and the skills needed for them

Linguistics Career Launch

Emily Pace

Linguistics Career Launch:
From coursework to career

- Founded in 2021 within the Linguistic Society of America by the Linguistics Beyond Academia Special Interest Group
- Bootcamps aimed at linguistics (etc.) students and career transitioners in 2021, 2022, and 2024
  - Included jobs talks, networking, skills & career management workshops, and more
- Sister project: Linguistics Careercast, hosted by Laurel Sutton
- YouTube Channel: LCL21 and LCL24 content plus special podcast episodes and some content from LSA meetings
- Next steps: Making an independent nonprofit
- To find out more, see the LCL Resources Guide

The LCL Resources Guide offers videos & podcast episodes on many career topics

- Career Management
- Resources for Faculty
- Getting Started Beyond Academia
- Living/Feeling Beyond Academia
- UX, UIs, & VUIs
- Technology
- Naming and Storytelling
- Government
- Translation, Interpretation, & Localization
- Nonprofits, Research, & Publishing
- Education
- Charting Your Own Path
- Linguists Are Everywhere!
- Useful Links/Additional Resources

Discussion

Emily Pace

ACRN and LCL have strong interests in building career resources

- What university disciplines are focused on career preparation for their students?
- How are ACRN and LCL similar and different from these other disciplines?
- Are there opportunities for ACRN and LCL to co-brand, work on projects/events together, etc.?

Updates

Jennifer Studebaker

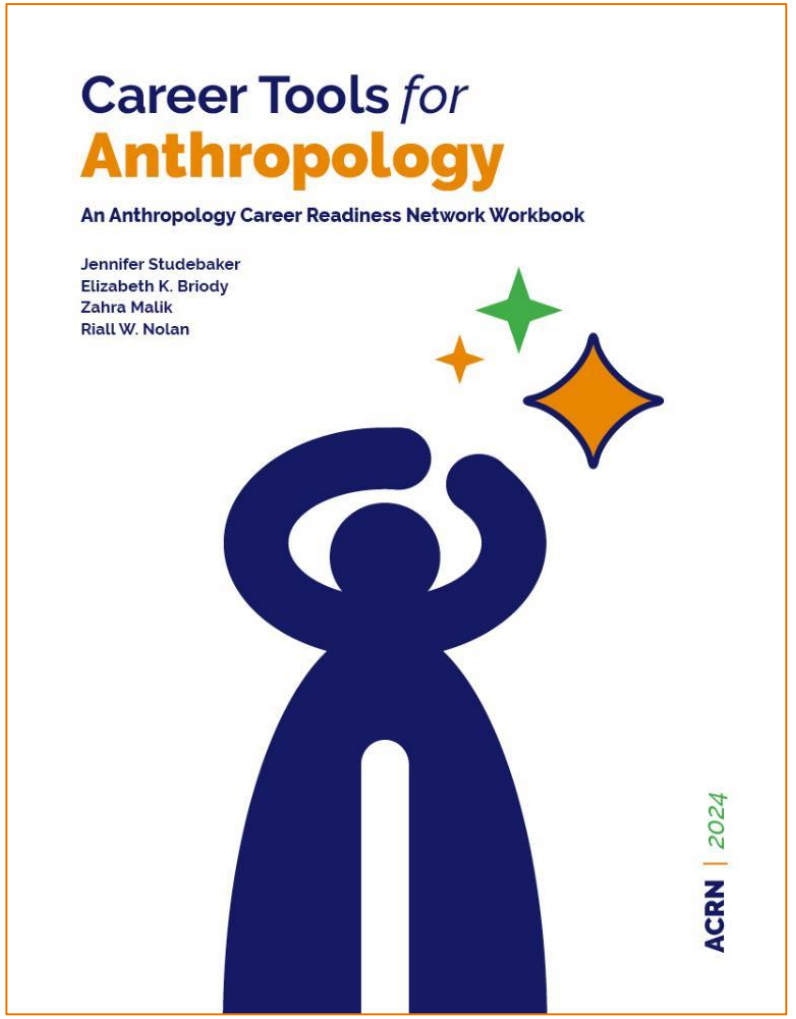
ACRN is working with two client-based class projects this spring

- Focus: Identifying the structural elements tied with an Anthropology major
- Professor: Alexandra Crampton
- Independent Study Course: "The Role of MU Anthropology in Personal Formation and Career Preparation"

- Focus: User perceptions of the impact of the campus TRIO Office (1st gen, low-income, and disabled students)
- Professor: Helen Blouet
- Course: "Sociology and Anthropology Theory"

Click to order this workbook

- If you are teaching this spring:
  - Put this book on your students' reading list
  - Assign some of the exercises as homework or in-class group work
  - Talk to your colleagues about ordering it for their courses
- Available on amazon for $10



We need to hear from you!

We want your blogposts!

- Writing for the World of Work Blog
  - Provides you with a venue for sharing your thoughts and experiences with anthropologists and others
  - Allows you to contribute to anthropology discussions about career readiness
- Developing your blogpost is straightforward
  - Focus: On careers or career preparation
  - Length: 750-800 words
  - Title: In the form of a question, with your blogpost answering the question
  - Contact: Priscilla Linn – **prlinn3@gmail.com**

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Spread the word to Juniors!

- Apply for the Ina Rosenthal-Urey Mentorship Award
- Pairs anthropology majors that are Juniors with two mentors—one from practice and one from academia
- Awardees receive a $500 award and complimentary AAA and NAPA memberships
- Deadline: **March 15, 2026**
- Read more about it and apply here

"… What I was hoping for from this program, and fortunately got, was seeing what cultural anthropologists could do apart from becoming a professor." —Awardee

acrn anthropology
CAREER READINESS NETWORK

Thank you for coming!

Next Zoom Call:

Thursday, March 26, 4:00 pm Eastern