



## Networking

### Networking Resources

It is a good idea to expand your network by regularly reaching out to people in your community and beyond. This tip sheet will provide you with some additional avenues for connecting with professionals in the career field you are pursuing. These avenues include: campus resources, social media and other online communities, professional associations, and professional networking groups in the Central Ohio region.

You'll have the support of Career Success staff while taking advantage of these resources, just in case you have questions along the way. You can schedule a 30-minute appointment with a Career Coach through Handshake. For more information about appointments, please see the [Working with a Career Coach](#) tip sheet.

**Applicable Career Communities:**



### Types of Networking Resources

#### 1. Campus Resources

Campus resources are a great way to ease into networking beyond your close contacts. To get started:

- Check our Events listing weekly at: <https://artsandsciences.osu.edu/career-success/events> Also keep up to date with your department's events schedule.
- Join campus clubs and organizations as another way to expand your network. A list of student organizations can be found at: [https://activities.osu.edu/involvement/student\\_organizations/find\\_a\\_student\\_org/](https://activities.osu.edu/involvement/student_organizations/find_a_student_org/)
- Tap into the OSU alumni network, regardless of where you plan to live! There are Ohio State alumni clubs in practically every state in the U.S. Go to <https://www.osu.edu/alumni/> for more information.

- Check out the *Columbus Business First* resource available through the OSU Library system. Their weekly publication includes a listing of upcoming networking events in central Ohio. Access the publication online (free) through the library: Go to <https://library.ohio-state.edu/screens/databases.html> and choose "Business and Economics" from the subject menu; then scroll down to the entry for "BizLink [Full Text]." You can access business newspapers for multiple cities around the nation using the same site.

#### 2. Social Media

- LinkedIn is a great professional social media platform for building your network. Keep in mind when using this platform it is important to keep it professional. Also, before you start to network you need to

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finish your profile, which is like an online resume people can see when connecting with you. For additional tips on using LinkedIn go to

<https://students.linkedin.com/>. You can also use LinkedIn to connect with alumni.

Check out how with this link:

<https://www.themuse.com/advice/the-free-linkedin-tool-thatll-make-it-so-much-easier-to-connect-with-awesome-people>

- Twitter may also provide opportunities for professional networking. Some resources to assist in using Twitter can be found here:  
<https://mashable.com/2013/02/09/twitter-job-search/> . While the most well-known, Twitter is just one of many microblogging forums. You may want to research sites devoted to your interest area.
- Listservs are generally good ways to receive reliable information about an industry and are simple to find. Online communities are also useful for finding information and creating relationships with people in your field. Search for listservs associated with your career interests by using  
<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!overview>
- More information on the use of social media in networking is found at:  
<https://www.livecareer.com/career/advice/obs/leveraging-social-networks>. Remember that using social media should be used as a supplement, not a replacement, for traditional face-to-face networking!

### 3. Central Ohio and Beyond

There are several networking groups here in central Ohio for you to tap into immediately. Some groups are general in their focus.

Others identify themselves by a particular

race or ethnic group to serve as a support network for people of similar backgrounds. Still others offer industry-specific forums for networking with professionals in a defined field. It is better to focus your energy on one or two groups rather than spreading yourself too thin by joining multiple ones.

Remember, you have to keep track of all of these people and how you know them! Don't overwhelm yourself right away. For those with free memberships or free events, attend them with a positive outlook about the potential, and get a feel for the group. If it's not the right fit, keep trying! Here are just a few examples of networking groups in central Ohio:

- Big Fish Networking - <http://oh.network-today.com/networking/big-fish-networking>
- Columbus Young Professionals – <https://www.cypclub.com/>
- Young Buckeyes Alumni Club of Central Ohio:  
<https://youngbuckeyesoh.alumni.osu.edu/>
- Columbus Hispanic Professionals:  
<https://columbus.org/business-resources/columbus-hispanic-professionals/>
- Young Jewish Columbus:  
<https://jewishcolumbus.org/yjc/>
- LinkOUT – LGBT Young Professionals of Columbus:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/linkout-columbus-492a518/>
- Network of Indian Professionals (NetIP):  
<https://columbus.org/business-resources/network-of-indian-professionals-net-ip/>
- Young Asian American Professional Network: <https://columbus.org/business-resources/young-asian-american-professional-network-yaapn/>

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- Columbus Urban League Professionals  
<https://www.culyp.org/>
- Business Networking International:  
<http://www.bni-ohio.com/>
- Meetup.com:  
<https://www.meetup.com/cities/us/oh/columbus/>
- Chambers of Commerce can be found in nearly every city and serve as a professional network for local business owners and entrepreneurs. Membership is required, but their websites provides great information on local businesses and events that are open to the public. Use <https://www.officialusa.com/> to locate chambers throughout the U.S. The site for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce, which regularly hosts luncheons and networking sessions, is <https://columbus.org/>

#### **4. Professional Associations**

Associations allow you to connect directly with professionals at all levels in your chosen field. Joining a group allows you to learn about industry trends, discover potential employers and the current top players in an industry, and meet people who may support your career goals. Most

professional associations charge membership fees to participate in luncheons, networking mixers, or other events, but often have free e-newsletters or listservs and may have discounted membership rates and customized programming for current students. After graduation, check to see if Ohio State alumni are part of the association and connect to them as an alumnus. Another way to gain entry into professional associations is to find a mentor and ask if they will let you attend an event or meeting as their guest. Here are some resources for finding professional associations:

CareerOneStop, maintained by the U.S. Department of Labor, has a searchable directory at <https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Training/find-professional-associations.aspx%20h>

Marketing Mentor maintains a list of Trade Associations and Trade Shows at <https://www.marketing-mentor.com/pages/trade-list>

The purpose of this tip sheet is to give Ohio State students starting points for broadening their networks. As a next step, we recommend that you search out additional groups that are a good fit for you given your interest areas.

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