

NETWORKING



Networking is how you build and maintain mutually beneficial relationships.

Why is it important?

- 70 percent of jobs are found through networking.

Why is it important to you now?

- You can develop relationships that can lead to informational interviews, job shadow experiences, internships and more.

With whom can you network?

- Classmates
- Faculty and staff
- Friends and family
- Alumni and professionals you meet at events or connect with online
- So...everyone!

How do you network?

- Be a resource for others – think, “How can I help them?”
- Revive past relationships with friends, coworkers, teachers, etc.
- See everyone you meet as important – discover the value of each interaction
- Be a super connector – connect people you feel have something of genuine value to each other

Where can you network?

- Events and programs (i.e., Alumni Mentor Program)
- Social Media (i.e., LinkedIn and Alumni Knight Network)
- Professional Development Organizations (i.e., Young Professionals Association of Louisville)

**“If you
want to
go fast,
go alone.
If you want
to go far,
go with
others.”**

–AFRICAN PROVERB

ALUMNI MENTOR PROGRAM

The Alumni Mentor Program is designed to match current students with established alumni from the Bellarmine community who serve as mentors in their mentee’s professional development. The program is facilitated through a partnership between the offices of Career Development and Alumni Relations and the Alumni Board of Directors. Students who participate can gain advice on their résumés, interviewing, and job searching, as well as an established connection to the professional world and a possible resource for years to come. Apply in January via Engage at engage.bellarmino.edu.

SOCIAL MEDIA

A professional online presence is an important part of career development and connecting with people and opportunities. Take the time to create a LinkedIn profile to begin networking with other professionals in your field of interest.

LinkedIn: 90% of recruiters say they use LinkedIn to find candidates. Here is how to make sure your profile stands out:

1. Visit [linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com) to create an account and set up your profile.
2. Photo: have one! Smile and wear a nice shirt; plain backgrounds look best.
3. Complete profiles = more opportunities.
4. Experience: include all jobs, internships, volunteer work and student organizations.
5. Connect with people you know & trust and visit [linkedin.com/school/bellarmino-university/people](https://www.linkedin.com/school/bellarmino-university/people) to find Bellarmine alumni with whom you may also want to network.
6. Follow companies to see their job opportunities, see connections you may have, and be noticed earlier in their searches for candidates.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

By investing of a few additional hours each month, it is possible to maintain a network of contacts to whom you might not ordinarily have access. In addition to networking, there are additional benefits to joining a professional organization:

1. Jobs: Many professional organizations help their members find jobs, or share job listings that other members may be offering.
2. Mentoring: Professional organizations have the ability to pair you with someone experienced in your field to provide professional and personal support.
3. Professional Development: Many organizations offer courses, workshops, publications and information on their websites shared only with members.
4. Scholarships: Many professional organizations offer scholarships to college students studying to enter their field.

Budget-Friendly Local Professional Development Organizations:

- Young Professionals Association of Louisville: ypal.org
- Institute of Management Accountants – Louisville Chapter: louisville.imanet.org
- Kentucky Society of Certified Public Accountants: kycpa.org
- American Advertising Federation – Louisville: aafloouisville.org
- IIBA Bluegrass Chapter for Business Analysis Professionals: bluegrass.iiba.org
- Louisville Society for Human Resource Management: lshrm.org
- Louisville Technology Group & Events: louisvilletech.org
- Kentucky Education Association: kea.org
- Kentucky Nurses Association: kentucky-nurses.nursingnetwork.com
- NASPA Kentucky for Student Affairs Administrators: naspa.org/region/naspa-kentucky
- Check jobstars.com/louisville-professional-associations-organizations/ for additional organizations