

# 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, job searches, and more, as well as an established connection to the professional world and a possible resource for years to come. Apply in the fall: [www.alumni.bellarmino.edu/alumnimmentor2018!](http://www.alumni.bellarmino.edu/alumnimmentor2018!)

## 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 and an Alumni Knight Network 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. Photo: have one! Smile and wear a nice shirt; plain backgrounds look best.
2. Complete profiles = more opportunities.
3. Experience: include all jobs, internships, volunteer work and student organizations.
4. Connect with people you know & trust first by uploading your online address book.
5. Follow companies to see their job opportunities, see connections you may have, and be noticed earlier in their searches for candidates.

**Alumni Knight Network:** Over 1500 Bellarmine alumni are on the site and are “willing to help.” Here’s how to join:

1. Visit [alumniknightnetwork.com](http://alumniknightnetwork.com) and create an account by connecting to LinkedIn (recommended), Facebook, or via email.
2. List your anticipated graduation year when prompted for “Grad Year at Bellarmine”.
3. Connect with your mentor by using the “Directory” tab at the top of the page to search for their name.
4. Connect with other alumni who say they are “willing to help” by using the “Directory” tab to search by employers or industries you are interested in.

## 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 high school and college members studying to enter their field.  
*Adapted from [college.monster.com](http://college.monster.com)*

### **Budget-Friendly Local Professional Development Organizations:**

- Young Professionals Association of Louisville: [ypal.org](http://ypal.org)
- Greater Louisville International Professionals: [greaterlouisville.com/glip](http://greaterlouisville.com/glip)
- Institute of Management Accountants – Louisville Chapter: [louisville.imanet.org](http://louisville.imanet.org)
- American Advertising Federation – Louisville: [aafloouisville.org](http://aafloouisville.org)
- IIBA Bluegrass Chapter for Business Analysis Professionals: [bluegrass.iiba.org](http://bluegrass.iiba.org)
- Louisville Society for Human Resource Management: [lshrm.org](http://lshrm.org)
- Louisville Technology Group & Events: [louisville.io](http://louisville.io)
- Kentucky Education Association: [kea.org](http://kea.org)
- Kentucky Nurses Association: [Kentucky-nurses.org](http://Kentucky-nurses.org)

*Adapted from IU Southeast*