

Networking

Career networking should become a part of your daily work and career-related endeavors. Start early; your career network should be in place for when you need it, both for job searching and for moving along the career ladder.

Anyone who can assist you with a job search should be in your Career Network!

- Students in your classes
- Professors and faculty at your college
- Past and present co-workers
- Bosses
- Friends with similar interests
- Colleagues from business associations
- Alumni from your university
- Acquaintances you have met via online networking services
- Family
- Neighbors

Why should you Network?

- Over 80% of job seekers say that their network has helped with their job search
- Contacts can provide referrals to companies you might be interested in working for
- Contacts can provide information on career fields you might want to explore
- Your network can give you advice on where to look for jobs or review your resume
- The possibilities are endless!

Keep In Touch With Your Network

Don't just contact those who can help when you have just been laid-off from your job or decide you want to look for a new position. Keep in touch with your network regularly - even if it's just a brief email to say hello and to ask how they are doing. People are more willing to help when they know who you are. **Networking shouldn't be a one way street.** If you come across an interesting article or a relevant job listing, share it with your network. The point of having a career network is to have resources that can help, but, you should reciprocate, whenever you can.

Keep Track of Your Network

Keep track of your personal career network somewhere. Whether it's electronically or on paper, make sure you know who is who, where they work, and how to get in touch.

Online Career Networking

Online job searching networking does work. Sites like LinkedIn, Facebook, and a variety of other websites can help you get in touch with other networkers at specific companies, with college affiliations or in a certain geographic area. You can start by visiting the Goodwin College [Facebook Page](#) and [Alumni Association Page](#) to start connecting with those already in your network. When networking with people you don't know, make sure that you know what you want. Are you looking for company information? Do you want to know about job opportunities? Be specific in what you ask for.

Additional Networking Websites:

- [Ning](#)
Ning is an online service to create, customize, and share a social network. Users have used Ning to create online social networks about tons of subjects, including jobs and the job search.
- [Twitter](#)
Twitter is a social networking and microblogging service utilizing instant messaging, SMS or a web interface. Twitter is open ended and people and companies use it in a variety of ways, including to job search
- [BroadsBrazen Careerist](#)
Brazen Careerist is a social networking site and career management tool. Users can create a profile, post status updates and there's a wall for comments. There is also a jobs, companies and networks section.
- [Jobirn.com](#)
Jobirn.com provides applicants with real time chat with employers (HR and recruiters), plus you can search and apply for jobs, and get recommendations from referrers.
- [Jobster](#)
Create a profile that includes a YouTube-hosted video information about your background, tags, and a personalized url you can use to share your digital resume with employers.
- [Koda](#)
Koda is a social recruiting site where job seekers can connect with companies.
- [MyWorkster](#)
Professionally network with students, graduates, and employers. Plus resume posting and job search tools.
- [Ryze](#)
Network to grow your career and to find a job. Free networking-oriented home page and messaging.
- [Alumni.Net](#)
Find fellow alumni from company, high school, univeristy and other organization affiliations.
- [Bright Circles](#)
Bright Circles alumni community lets current and former employees from leading companies and organizations stay in touch.
- [Classmates.com](#)
Find high school, college, military and workplace (in the Work and Careers Directory) connections. Friends and colleagues are ideal job search networking resources.
- [Fast Company](#)
Company of Friends is a community of self-organizing groups of business leaders and innovators. Members help each other improve their careers, companies, and communities.

➤ [MeetingWave](#)

MeetingWave's is designed is to help job seekers arrange face-to-face meetings with new people to expand their business and social networks.

Networking Events

Do you belong to a professional association? Attend a meeting or a mixer! You'll find that many of the participants have the same goals you do and will be glad to exchange business cards or information. Goodwin College holds networking events for current students and alumni, be sure to attend!

Career Networking Examples

Here are few examples of how career networking can help:

- Susan noticed a help-wanted ad for a job at a local veterinary clinic. She called a friend who happened to use that vet. Her friend called the vet and recommended Susan. Susan got an interview and got the job. The vet was glad to hire someone who came highly recommended by a good client.
- John was interested in pursuing a career in medicine. He mentioned his interest to a family friend who happened to be a doctor. The doctor arranged for John to spend a day shadowing him at the hospital and provided an excellent recommendation for medical school.
- Angela was interested in changing careers and moving from public relations to publishing. Even though she graduated more than a few years ago, she tapped her college career network and came up with a contact at a top New York publishing firm. In addition to being sent new job postings, her resume was hand-delivered to Human Resources when she found a position she wanted to apply for.
- In casual conversation at the orthodontist's office, Jeannie, the assistant, just happened to mention to a patient's mom that she was interested in horses and in a part-time job working with them. The mom had horses and a bunch of contacts. Jeannie had a part-time job working on a local horse farm by the end of the week!

For more information on Networking, please [contact](#) Career Services.

Source: <http://jobsearch.about.com/od/networking/a/networkingtips.htm>