

The Career Advancement Center and Student Alumni Association present:

Speed Networking 2009

Get the facts • Meet the professionals



LAKE FOREST
COLLEGE

Frequently Asked Questions Guide

Speed Networking

February 20, 2009 • 12:00-3:30pm • Mohr Student Center

What is Speed Networking?

Speed Networking, modeled after speed dating, is a way for students to connect with alumni and professionals in their career fields of interest. Some statistics estimate that up to 75% of jobs are never posted, and knowing someone within an organization of interest can greatly benefit you as you begin your career. Students will be computer matched for up to twenty five-minute networking sessions with professionals. Mandatory prep sessions (see page 3 for details) will prepare you to have meaningful conversations at the event as well as provide an opportunity to exercise the skills necessary to build and extend your professional network in any situation.

How will speed networking help me get a job or internship?

Getting a job is about who you know! 75% of jobs are never posted! Speed networking is your chance to meet professionals and learn about many types of careers. This is a unique opportunity to ask *experienced* professionals about what it takes to be a competitive job candidate. Some professionals may also be hiring for jobs and internships.

Will there be a list of organizations attending this event?

A running list will be available on our website www.lakeforest.edu/careers in early January. Typically, professionals will continue to commit until the week before the event, so the list may change.

“Personal contacts are the key to opening doors....It’s not necessarily strong contacts, like family and close friends that prove most powerful; to the contrary, often the most important people in our network are those who are acquaintances.”
~Keith Ferrazzi, *Never Eat Alone*

Will participating alumni and professionals be hiring? If not, why are they there?

Not all of the participants will be hiring, but never underestimate the importance of having a contact within a particular organization. Use this opportunity to increase your professional network so that when the organization *is* hiring, you’ve got access to company insiders and know which skills and qualities you must demonstrate to be competitive for the position. Some employers prefer to hire on a “just-in-time” schedule, which means they will hire when they know they have a need. Plenty of students have spent months strategically networking before earning a job offer. Also remember that even once you get a job, you will continue to benefit from knowing experienced professionals.

Do I need a résumé?

Résumés are not required; however it is not uncommon for professionals to ask for credentials - especially if they are hiring. We strongly recommend that you come prepared with a résumé to the event. The Career Advancement Center can help you prepare and edit your résumé.

I’m a first year/sophomore. Is it too early for me to go to something like this?

No, it is never too early to begin exploring your career options and networking with professionals!

What do I need to do to participate in speed networking?

STEP 1: Attend a prep session

To be eligible for speed networking, you **MUST** attend one entire ninety minute prep session. Each prep session provides tips and practice to help you make the most of speed networking and to enhance your networking skills in other situations. You can register for a prep session through the Online Career Center at www.lakeforest.edu/careers Prep session dates and times:

- Wednesday, February 4, 3-4:30 p.m. Vail Commons, Buchanan Hall
- Thursday, February 5, 6-7:30p.m. Vail Commons, Buchanan Hall
- Monday, February 9, 12-1:30 p.m. Vail Commons, Buchanan Hall
- Tuesday, February 10, 6-7:30 p.m. Vail Commons, Buchanan Hall
- Wednesday, February 11, 9:30-11 a.m. Vail Commons, Buchanan Hall
- Friday, February 13, 3-4:30 p.m. Vail Commons, Buchanan Hall

***“Success
always comes
when
preparation
meets
opportunity.”
~Henry
Hartman***

STEP 2: Create your online profile and mark your calendar

Students that participate in a prep session will have the opportunity to register online for speed networking through the Career Advancement Center at 7 a.m. on February 16. Details and instructions will be discussed at the prep sessions. The first 125 students* that register will secure their space at the event; additional students will be placed on a wait list and accommodated if possible. Registration is your commitment to arrive on time and ready to network on February 20, so mark your calendar for 12:00-3:30 p.m. and adjust work schedules accordingly.

**Juniors and seniors will be given initial preference for schedules.*

STEP 3: Arrive on time and ready to network

Professionals are excited to talk to you (and taking time out of their normally busy schedules), so arrive at the Mohr Student Center no later than 12:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20! *Professional attire is recommended.*

Is there an advantage in going to an earlier prep session?

Not really, because registration opens on February 16, at 7 a.m. after all prep sessions have been held. Pick the session that best fits into your schedule. Earlier sessions tend to draw fewer students, so you will likely have the opportunity to ask more questions at the first sessions.

Who can I contact with questions?

Contact the Career Advancement Center at 847-735-5235.