Networking for Undergraduate Researchers

1. Why Should You Network?

- Learn about different perspectives, resources, and opportunities
- Increase and diversify your academic and professional support systems
- Build rapport with professionals and fellow students in your field
- Demonstrate skills & potential; learn about skills & potential in others
- Stand out from the crowd by connecting who you are to your resume
- Open yourself up to potential collaboration

Creating and maintaining strong professional relationships is always mutually beneficial.

2. Peer Connections

- Engage with peer presentations
- Reach out to co-presenters, co-panelists, and moderators!
- Build social network at mixers and social events

TIPS for positive-peer connections...
- Don't be afraid to reach out first!
- Take initiative: make lunch or dinner plans
- Be direct about your goals for an interaction
- Set expectations for your conversation - make it clear what you are hoping to discuss

Listen with intention. Be a memorable conversationalist (in a good way!)

3. Faculty Connections

- Reach out to faculty or other presenters doing research in your area(s) of interest
- Pay attention to details - typos/misnaming things can impact how you are perceived
- Take notes and formulate questions during sessions or panels you attend
- Exchange contact info
- Email your connections as a form of follow-up and get added to their listservs so you can stay up-to-date on their research

TIPS for effective faculty connections...
- Keep it concise
- Know something about their research/work and include that information in your communications
- Be as specific as possible - about your interests, your goals, and how you might connect with their work

4. Online Networking

- Handshake
  - “Online recruiting platform for higher education students and alumni. Partners with the U and employers to streamline and simplify the recruiting process.”
  - “Find the right job or internship, connect and strengthen professional relationships, and learn the skills you need to succeed in your career.”

- LinkedIn

At conferences and symposia...

TIPS for positive-peer connections...
- Don’t be afraid to reach out first!
- Take initiative: make lunch or dinner plans
- Be direct about your goals for an interaction
- Set expectations for your conversation - make it clear what you are hoping to discuss

Listen with intention. Be a memorable conversationalist (in a good way!)

TIPS for effective faculty connections...
- Keep it concise
- Know something about their research/work and include that information in your communications
- Be as specific as possible - about your interests, your goals, and how you might connect with their work

Ask lots of questions and listen as much as possible. ALWAYS FOLLOW UP!