

Career Life Connections 12 - Module 1: Networking & Community

Core Competencies:

- Communication
- Positive Personal and Cultural Identity
- Personal Awareness and Responsibility

Big Ideas:

- Engaging in networks and reciprocal relationships can guide and broaden career-life awareness and options
- Lifelong learning and active citizenship foster career-life opportunities for people and communities

Curricular Competencies:

- Collaborate with a mentor to inform career-life development and exploration
- Engage with personal, education and employment networks to cultivate post-graduation resources and social capital
- Create and critique personal and public profiles for self-advocacy and marketing purposes
- Demonstrate and reflect on inclusive, respectful and safe interactions in multiple career-life contexts

Introduction:

In this lesson and accompanying assignment, students will learn about the value of networking in building their personal and professional networks.

1. Ask the class - what is networking? In what ways do students currently network, or how could students start to establish a network? Maybe start a list on the board and continue with secondary sources. For example, if someone networks by attending their parent's office Christmas party, how could that networking turn into another, perhaps even more valuable relationship?
Ask students if anyone has someone in their life who is a mentor to them. Brainstorm on ways that someone could be a mentor.
2. Write one of the following questions on three pieces of large poster paper, or on the board.
 - a. What role can mentors play in our career-life development and in advancing our career life goals?
 - b. How do our communications and interactions represent who and how we want to be in the world?
 - c. In what ways can we collaborate with people from our personal and educational/workplace networks to explore and further meaningful career life opportunities?

Give each student a pile of post it notes and ask them to write down as many answers to each question on separate post it notes. When they are finished, have them stick the post it notes underneath or around the question.

Separate the class into three (or six) groups and have them take the post it note responses (there should be several) from one of the questions. Ask students to come up with the three most common answers, or themes for the question, and present to the class.

Assignment:

Give students a deadline to attend a networking event of some type in their community. Keep the focus on networking in mind when choosing a networking activity:

“**Networking** is a process that fosters the exchange of information and ideas among individuals or groups that share a common interest. It may be for social or business purposes. Professionals connect their business network through a series of symbolic ties and contacts.” (as taken from investopedia.com)

Events can be social in nature, or with people who have a common interest. Many networking groups in the Comox Valley would include students dropping in on a meeting, just have them email in advance. Students can also refer to their Work Experience Coordinators for help, or to become aware of volunteer experiences, or arrange for an informational interview with someone in the career of their own interest.. Attached is a list of networking opportunities for the Comox Valley.

Hint for students: refer to this Networking website from UBC - it is a great resource! <https://students.ubc.ca/career/career-resources/networking>

Looking for Networking Ideas? Look no further!

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any volunteerism in your community - attend an event and talk with others!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campus Tours or Events at Post Secondary Institutions - (North Island College Open House is held every February)• Black Press Extreme Education and Career Fair: usually held each February• North Island College Career Fair: usually held every March
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teen Entrepreneur Club https://www.bgccvi.com/programs/teen-entrepreneur-club-tec/• LIFT Comox Valley https://liftcomoxvalley.ca/
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teen Entrepreneur Club https://www.bgccvi.com/programs/teen-entrepreneur-club-tec/• LIFT Comox Valley https://liftcomoxvalley.ca/• Rotary Club of Courtenay https://portal.clubrunner.ca/671/• Rotary Club of Comox https://portal.clubrunner.ca/670/• Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce Events http://www.comoxvalleychamber.com/events.html• Toastmasters International Comox Valley http://www.toastmasters.org/Find-a-Club/00003984-comox-valley-toastmasters-club• Downtown Courtenay Business Association https://downtowncourtenay.com/• Comox Valley Women’s Business Network http://www.cvwbn.org/
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteer Comox Valley - Volunteer Opportunities http://www.volunteercomoxvalley.ca/• Volunteer with Comox Valley Arts https://www.comoxvalleyarts.com/volunteering/

Network Engagement

Module 1 Assignment • Career Life Connections 12

Name: _____ Block: _____ Due Date: _____

For this assignment, you will be attending a networking event of your choice. Networking doesn't need to be a formal affair, it just needs to facilitate the exchange of information in order to cultivate some sort of productive relationship for your employment or educational goals.

There are numerous options for you to get out there and network, and although it may feel a little awkward, and perhaps even a little scary, it will be a great start to developing this essential skill. It is imperative that the networking activity you choose align with your career and educational goals, and you have many options to choose from here in the Comox Valley! Listed below are some options to choose from in the community (just call or email them to ask about attending their next meeting). Alternatively, you can spend a day (or more) volunteering, or ask someone who reflects your career or educational goals for an informational interview.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus Tours or Events at Post Secondary Institution (North Island College Open House is held every February) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teen Entrepreneur Club (https://www.bgccvi.com/programs/teen-entrepreneur-club-tec/)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Press Extreme Education and Career Fair (Usually held each February) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce Events (http://www.comoxvalleychamber.com/events.html)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Island College Career Fair (Usually held every March) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toastmasters International Comox Valley (http://www.toastmasters.org/Find-a-Club/00003984-comox-valley-toastmasters-club)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIFT Comox Valley (https://liftcomoxvalley.ca/) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown Courtenay Business Association (https://downtowncourtenay.com/)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotary Club of Courtenay (https://portal.clubrunner.ca/671/) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comox Valley Women's Business Network (http://www.cvwbn.org/)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotary Club of Comox (https://portal.clubrunner.ca/670/) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Comox Valley - Volunteer Opportunities (http://www.volunteercomoxvalley.ca/)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer with Comox Valley Arts (https://www.comoxvalleyarts.com/volunteering/) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any volunteerism in your community - ask your Work Experience Coordinator for ideas!

What is the networking activity that you have decided to participate in? Date(s)?

BEFORE:

How did you decide on what networking event to take part in?

How does this event reflect on your skills and / or your passions?

BEFORE:

How did you research the organization, event or person prior to you attending?

What did you learn?

BEFORE:

What are you most nervous about in preparing for your networking opportunity?

What are you doing to mitigate those concerns?

AFTER:

Provide a thoughtful reflection on your networking experience.

Look carefully of the criteria of the assignment, and choose your own way of reflecting your learning. Upload your assignment into your MyBlueprint portfolio.

Let your assignment be a reflection of you!

DURING:

While you are at the event, take a picture or a short video of yourself for evidence of your attendance, dress etc. A video can include how you are currently feeling (if you are able to sneak away into a quiet corner!)

AFTER:

Looking back to your worries prior to attending the event, did they materialize?

Is there anything you would do differently prior to attending your next networking event?

DURING:

While you are at the event, have at least one meaningful two-way conversation with someone about your career or educational goals. Make sure you ask for their name (or better yet, a business card) and ask if it would be okay if you contact them in the future. Make sure their name, business name, and contact information are included in your assignment.