



FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE

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March/2016 - ConnectTheDots - Networking

Dear FFE Scholars,

We hope that your semester is off to an interesting and productive start!

The theme of this mailer is “Networking.”

In this context, “networking” means building professional connections and relationships (NOT the IT technical meaning of connecting points and nodes). Students can – *and should* – build networks during their college years to help them find the jobs they want when they graduate.

Whys and Hows

Networking is a key part of any student’s career planning. People in your network can offer you:

- Information about your industry;
- Advice;
- Job opportunities; and
- Professional connections with people who could help you.

Your own personal network may already be bigger than you think. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Is there a professor who knows me and thinks highly of me?
- Have I joined LinkedIn?
- Are there students at my college who share my interests and keep up-to-date with current trends and job opportunities?
- Are there alumni from my college working for companies that I would like to work for?
- Am I a member of the FFE Facebook group that connects FFE scholars and alum all across India and the globe?
- Have I participated in any conferences or mentorship programs?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, congrats! That means you already have started building a network. Now the key is to keep improving it – both in the quantity and the quality of your contacts. Read the rest of this mailer – and keep checking the [FFE FB](#) and [LinkedIn](#) groups – for ideas on how to do so.

For Your Information

LinkedIn is the world’s largest professional network on the Internet. Here’s some interesting facts:

- LinkedIn has more than 400 million members in over 200 countries and territories.

- There are more than 40 million students and recent graduates on LinkedIn. They are the fastest growing group on the network.
- The top 5 countries by user numbers are:
 1. USA (124 million)
 2. India (34 million)
 3. Brazil (23 million)
 4. UK (20 million)
 5. China (16 million)
- The ten most overused buzzwords worldwide on LinkedIn profiles (Tip: Try to avoid them! They won't help you stand out from the crowd!)
 1. Motivated
 2. Passionate
 3. Creative
 4. Driven
 5. Extensive experience
 6. Responsible
 7. Strategic
 8. Track record
 9. Organizational
 10. Expert

Sources: [LinkedIn](#) and [Financial Post](#)

[Get Linked](#)

Joining LinkedIn is free and easy. If you've not done so already, go to www.students.linkedin.com today to create your profile.

Are you already a member of LinkedIn? Take your participation to the next level with these tips:

- Research potential companies
- Improve your profile by adding more details
- Make sure all grammar and spelling are correct in your profile and your postings
- Look at job descriptions to learn more about what skills you need to develop
- Ask informed questions in LinkedIn groups and show that you are engaged and curious student/job-seeker
- Check out the profiles of people you admire to see their career paths

[FFE Connect](#)

FFE keeps in touch with our network of students and alumni through our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) groups.

FFE has also created industry-specific subgroups on LinkedIn. This is a place where you can connect with FFE scholars and alum in your industry. Choose which group would be helpful to you. Join! Be an active participant!

- [FFE IT and Computer Science Engineering](#)
- [FFE Medicine](#)
- [FFE Electronics/Communication Engineering](#)
- [FFE Mechanical Engineering](#)

Take Action

Building your online network is important, but so is building your face-to-face network. Here are some concrete steps to help you build your network. Aim to complete all of the steps by the end of this month.

Step #1: Set your professional goal. What do you want to do? What kind of job are you looking for when you graduate?

Step #2: Make a list. Think of 3 people who could help you reach this goal. This could include students in your course, alumni from your college, professors, mentors, recruiters, LinkedIn connections, speakers on campus, participants in a conference, etc.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Step #3: Reach out to one person. Politely ask them for a meeting.

Step #4: Be prepared. Think of 3 intelligent questions that you want to ask the person that you are meeting with.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

AND Think of 2 interesting things that you want to share about yourself. This should be related to your career goals and interests. How can you make yourself memorable?

1. _____
2. _____

Step #5: Meet. Be confident and professional. Make notes of what happened at your meeting and re-visit your goals.

Get Inspired

Advice from FFE Medical Alum Dr. Alpesh Kikani Kumar:

"In my opinion, building professional relationships in the medical field is necessary for expanding an individual's practice as there are so many branches in medical field and patient care always requires a multidisciplinary approach."