Networking – The Number One Way People Find Jobs

When you intentionally reach out to other people that you might not know otherwise, you are networking. It is a “give and take” process in which you help others widen their circle as others help you.

Get linked on Linkedin! It is the most popular online professional networking tool available. You need to create a profile and begin using it.

College is one of the best places to establish your network. Start with who you already know and continue from there. Here are some possibilities:

Friends: Your fellow students today are your colleagues and contacts of tomorrow. Build as many friendships in college as you can.

Alumni: Meet BVU alumni through campus events. If you can’t attend, contact Career Services for a list of alumni who have attended in recent years. Career Services also has access to a database of alumni, searchable by city/state and college.

ACES: Many speakers come to BVU to connect with students, so take advantage of these connections by staying after the presentation and asking for a business card. Ask if you may contact them later.

Career Fairs: Introduce yourself to as many recruiters as possible at area career fairs.

Summer jobs and internships: Increase your professional network while you gain valuable work experience. Don’t shy away from engaging upper-level managers in conversations; they are well-connected people!

Professional conferences: Find out from your professors about professional conferences you may attend while a student. This can be a networking bonanza – just reach out and introduce yourself to lots of other attendees.

Volunteer: Doing community service is one of the best ways to get to know lots of people.

Informational interviews: They are the ultimate networking technique! Find someone you admire in your profession of interest and ask to talk with them.