



Networking to Continue My Education

For students who want to continue their education

Networking

Networking is meeting and building relationships with people.

- People in your network can include family, friends, neighbors, coaches, teachers, bosses, co-workers and other individuals in your community.
- People can be in your professional or personal network.



How Can Networking Help Me Continue My Education?

Networking can help you:

- Learn about colleges or training programs you are interested in
- Understand degrees or certificates that are needed for the career you want
- Ask about what it is like to attend a college
- Identify supports that are available
- Decide what college or training program you would like to go to



Types of Networks

The two types of **networks** are personal and professional.

Personal network

- A personal network is when you meet and build relationships with people who have the same interests as you.
- People in your **person network** might be:
 - Family members
 - Friends
 - Neighbors
 - Teammates
 - Classmates
 - Club members



Professional network

- A professional network is when you meet and build relationships with people in a career field you are interested in.
- People in your **professional network** might be:
 - Teachers
 - School Contacts
 - Past work or internship supervisors
 - Job Coaches
 - People working at jobs you are interested in
 - Current and former co-workers
 - Professional Associates

Professional Networking and College

Sharing your education goals with people in your **personal network** can:

- Lead to making connections to help build your **professional network**
- For Example:
 - You may have a friend who has a sibling that attends the college you are interested in
 - You may have a neighbor who works in a job you are interested in
 - You may have a family friend who works at a community college



There are many ways to build your professional network:

- Meet with a college student
- Meet with a college instructor
- Go on a campus tour
- Attend a class shadow
- Attend a college preview night
- Meet with college staff

Wrap Up

- **Networking** is meeting and building relationships with people who can help you reach your personal and professional goals.
- There are two types of **networks**:
 - A **Personal Network** involves meeting and building relationships with people who have the same interests as you.
 - A **Professional Network** involves meeting and building relationships with people who can help you meet your career goals.
- Networking is an **ongoing process**, you need to stay in contact with the people in your network.
- Building your **professional network** can help you learn about the college or training programs you are interested in.
- **Networking** can help you make decisions about continuing your education.