

EXPANDING PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

Why not start with setting a goal together for the number of new professional contacts the mentee will make during your mentoring relationship? The following tips will help you handle this topic.

Do research

- ✓ Mentees can research professional journals and publications, directories and the Internet in order to generate a list of networking opportunities.
- ✓ Mentors can provide guidance and insight to keep the research focused and efficient.

Keep an open mind

- ✓ Determine appropriate networks for the mentee: with other professionals, with potential employers, and with social groups.

Strategize

- ✓ Determine the amount of time and money the mentee has available for networking.
- ✓ Set priorities for information and networking events.
- ✓ Discuss some cost-effective ways to benefit from industry events; for example, volunteering and saving on entrance fees.

Be clear on boundaries and expectations

- ✓ Mentors must feel comfortable opening their professional networks to mentees. Always discuss expectations and boundaries.