An Overview of the Student-to-Industry Professional Database
WHAT IS CORPORATE CONNECTIONS?

Corporate Connections is a student-to-industry professional database that links students from the Multicultural Engineering Program with industry members in their field of interest.
Make the initial contact – this is your responsibility!
- Share your name, major, grade, and goals. Don’t forget to ask about their background as well!
- What do you want to get out of this experience? Let them know!
- Consider the following times to reach out:
  - Around Career Fair:
    - Share jobs you are looking into. Ask what tips they might have for you regarding working the fair, resume building and interviewing.
  - Mid-quarter:
    - Share how things are going – what courses are coming easy to you? Where are you struggling?
  - End of the quarter:
    - Share how you progressed. What are your goals for next quarter?
- Respond to emails sent from your industry contact
- Turn to your contact for questions that relate to job searching within your field of interest
- Share with your contact how you are doing in classes – they signed up because they really care about how you’re doing!

Method of communication between student and professional is based on the pair’s preference.
FOR STUDENTS: HOW CAN I BEST UTILIZE MY INDUSTRY CONTACT?

- Consider reaching out on topics such as:
  - Internship opportunities within their industry
  - Resume building
  - Questions about skillsets required in their occupation
  - Hearing about personal experiences within school and similar courses

- Email with any questions you think he/she might be able to assist you with.

- Do not contact professionals for assistance with homework or quizzes!
Dear Mr./Ms. ______,

Hello, my name is ________, and I am a student in the Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP) at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. I noticed you were listed on MEP’s Corporate Connections student-to-industry professional database. My current major is ________ and I am interested in ______.

How did you become interested in the field of ______? It is a field in which I am considering going into, and I am hoping you could mentor me – I would love to ask you about your job and about this field as a career. I would appreciate a chance to talk with you by phone or email at your convenience.

Thank you for offering to help Cal Poly MEP students. I look forward to learning about your experiences in the field of _________.

Feel free to reach me at my contact information below.

Sincerely,

YOUR NAME

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION
ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

- How did you become interested in this field?
- How did you get to where you are today?
- What was school like for you?
- What do you do for fun when you’re not at work?
Frequently Asked Questions

- Are all listed on Corporate Connections local?
  - Not necessarily. This program is for you to reach out to industry members from all over – feel free to talk with anyone via email, phone, skype, face-to-face…whatever your preference.

- Who do I reach out to from Corporate Connections?
  - Feel free to choose anyone you think would be helpful to you in answering your question! They signed up because they care about MEP student success.

- Once I select someone to reach out to, how do I do it?
  - Start via email. See example on upcoming slide.

- What if I’m not contacted?
  - Contact Meghan Schuler-Jones. We will reach out on your behalf. If your contact no longer wants to be a part of the program, we will encourage you find to another from the database.
• Check in with student *at least* once per quarter to see how things are going

• Be open for questions that may pertain to careers within your field

• Report to MEP staff if you have any concerns – mep@calpoly.edu

Method of communication between student and professional is based on the pair’s preference.
HOW CAN I BEST ASSIST THE STUDENT WHO REACHED OUT TO ME?

- Share your stories about getting through college
- Share what made you successful at obtaining jobs within industry
- Be available for questions regarding professional development
  - Resume builders
  - Interview skills
  - Working the career fair
- Know about the policy and dates of available internships within your company (if applicable)
- Know and share strategies of academic success
- ENCOURAGE your student to be successful!
- **Do not** provide assistance with homework or quizzes!

INFO FOR PROFESSIONALS

CAL POLY
Multicultural Engineering Program
ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS FOR PROFESSIONALS

- How did you become interested in this field?
- What are your educational goals and how are you working towards them?
- Where do you see yourself 10 years down the road?
- What do you do for fun when you’re not at school?
TOPICS THAT SUPPORT ACADEMIC SUCCESS

- Ask the student questions regarding:
  - Attending class
  - Seeking faculty office hours
  - Creating study groups
  - Seeking tutoring
  - Time management
  - Physical/mental well-being
  - Seeking advising

If there are questions you cannot answer or if you have any concerns about the student, please contact and have the student contact the MEP staff at mep@calpoly.edu.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I live a great distance from San Luis Obispo, can I still participate?

- Yes! This program is for students to reach out to industry members from all over – you need not interact face-to-face, but rather via email, phone, skype…whatever your preference.

How do students find me?

- Upon filling out the application on the website, your information will be put into a profile format on a database. Once students request access, they will choose who to contact based on their questions/career focus. If you have an occupation change, let us know and we can update your profile.

What type of questions will students have?

- Some students may only have one basic question to learn more about your field, others might want a more in-depth perspective and understanding of who you are, how you got to where you are, and what your job is like. Some students could use some academic/professional encouragement. Some students may want a long-term mentor, whereas others may just have a quick question. Either way, we than you for being open to chatting with our students!

What if I have too much on my plate at this current time?

- Feel free to tell the student who contacted you that you’re preoccupied a the moment. Let us know if you would like your name and information removed from the profile list.

What if I’m not contacted?

- It’s ok! Your information is still on our database for those to refer to. It is a year-round program, so students will trickle in looking for mentors over time.

What if I am concerned for how the student is doing?

- Please contact Jackie Duerr or Meghan Schuler-Jones immediately!
# Academic Resources

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<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Website/Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEP Advisors</td>
<td>Meghan: <a href="mailto:mcschule@calpoly.edu">mcschule@calpoly.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jackie: <a href="mailto:jduerr@calpoly.edu">jduerr@calpoly.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Counseling Services</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hcs.calpoly.edu/">http://www.hcs.calpoly.edu/</a></td>
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AS A REMINDER...

- **Professionals:**
  - Create your professional profile at http://www.mep.calpoly.edu/mentoring
  - Students are expected to make the initial contact! Contact might occur throughout the academic year

- **Students:**
  - Sign up to gain access to the student-to-industry professional database: http://www.mep.calpoly.edu/mentoring
  - You will be sent a link that will direct you to professional profiles
  - Reach out to professionals of your choice who want to connect with students like you!
THANK YOU!

We are excited that you are a part of our program!

Contact MEP staff if you have any additional questions about the program:

mep@calpoly.edu

Apply: http://mep.calpoly.edu/mentoring