

## Ways to Network

### Networking Events

Networking is the center of most successful job searches. When you make contact with people in a career field or organization in which you want to work, you may get tips on improving your marketability, names of additional contacts, inside information about what it takes to get hired, or even a job offer. Attend CSU Channel Islands Extended University Graduate Student Mixers, free Dale Carnegie Workshops, and local networking events sponsored through the [Camarillo Chamber of Commerce](#), [Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce](#), [Carpenteria Chamber of Commerce](#), [Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [Santa Barbara Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](#).

### Social Media Networking

[LinkedIn](#) is a social media networking tool that allows you to strengthen and increase your network of professional contacts. You can also use LinkedIn to research employers, career fields, industry contacts, and job leads. Many employers and recruitment agencies use LinkedIn to find candidates for open positions. Learn how to make your LinkedIn page the stand out by attending "[Marketing Yourself](#)" workshops offered through Extended University. For more information, read [LinkedIn Tips \(pdf\)](#)

### Young Professionals Networking Opportunities

Young Professionals Groups (YPG) are comprised of young professionals who are members of local Chambers of Commerce or prospective members who are interested in creating developmental opportunities. There are many ways to get connected with the YPG including joining the leadership council, volunteering, serving on a sub-committee and attending their network at night events. As a member of YPG you will: (1) develop advanced leadership skills (2) increase professional development, (3) make valuable networking connections with professionals in the field.

[Ventura Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Group](#)  
[Camarillo Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Group](#)  
[Conejo Valley Emerging Leaders Group](#)

### Networking through Professional Associations

Professional associations, many of which will allow students to join at a discounted rate, offer an excellent job search resource. Many national associations have local chapters. They commonly provide some type of career services for their members and post information about jobs in their field. Attending an association meeting or event can help you meet people who can provide you with job leads and valuable career-related information.

For a list of professional organizations, visit [What Can I do with My Major?](#) or [Weddles Association Directory](#).

**Don't Forget Business Cards!** Business cards are an excellent way for you to share contact information with people during professional networking events. They should

include your name, contact information, and – if unemployed - your credentials (e.g., MBA), major, university, and field of interest.