

# IBM **Accelerate** Talent Identification Program

*Networking Café*  
*Powered by Ten Thousand Coffees*

# IBM Accelerate Program Networking Café

## (Powered by Ten Thousand Coffees!)

Most great advice and professional development opportunities start with something simple: a meaningful conversation.

It's these informal development opportunities that happen through discussions with peers or other connections where we often learn and grow the most.

That's why we're excited to partner with Ten Thousand Coffees to bring our team together to learn from each other and share knowledge.

### How it works

First, we'll get to know a little bit more about your goals and interests.

- We'll use your goals and interests to match you — either 1:1 with an Accelerate participant peer or to a relevant IBMer for a conversation. What you choose to talk about is up to you- we've outlined some ideas to help you get the conversation started on Page 2!
- Once you've been matched, we'll send an introduction. We'll let you know why we think you'd make a good match and offer up some icebreakers to get the conversation started.
- You should reply with a few suggested times to coordinate to meet with your match via Slack or email and to connect over Webex for a coffee conversation.
- After you've met, you'll get a survey to let us know more about your experience. We'll use this to make sure you're getting the most out of every conversation.

### Who you'll meet

We know that you'll leave every conversation with a new insight and a valuable addition to your network. You might meet:

- A peer from within your Accelerate track to exchange perspectives
- A peer from a different Accelerate track to expand your network outside of your track sessions
- An influential leader who can share career advice and answer questions
- A subject matter expert who can teach you a new skill
- A hiring manager or recruiter who can share relevant advice

The best part? It'll introduce you 1:1 to 4 new connections!

Here's what users had to say:

- 92% said they made a valuable addition to their professional network
- 44% claimed they gained meaningful career advice
- 68% said they learned about a new career opportunity at their organization

### Ready to get started?

This part's easy. All that stands between you and your first match is setting up your profile.

- Follow the prompts to set up your profile
- Completed your profile? Await your first introduction coming via Slack on **Monday, June 17th!**

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# Conversation Guidance

(For your matches with participating IBMers and Accelerate peers!)

## Suggested topics

The below ideas are just suggestions as you start connecting. Ultimately you can discuss the below topics at any point throughout your networking conversations! Matches will occur on the following dates: June 17<sup>th</sup>, June 24<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup>, and July 15<sup>th</sup>.

- How do you build the confidence to network?
- What ways do you challenge yourself to grow?
- What motivates you to go out of your way to learn about skills to develop?
- How do you adapt to a fast-paced environment when joining a new team?
- What has your path been like prior to joining the program/IBM?
- What are ways you showcase your professional brand?
- What ways have you seen most effective to making a strong first impression?
- How are you working on your communication skills in the digital world?
- What inspires you to bring your full self to work?
- What have you witnessed or done to create an inclusive environment?
- How has IBM helped and/or supported you with getting involved and/or learning about D&I?
- Is there a D&I initiative you would like to highlight?
- What's an example you like about self-advocacy?
- What have you found helpful to include/avoid including in a resume?
- What has your best interviewing experience been like?
- How do you recommend I build confidence with interviewing?
- Would it be okay if we mock-interview 1-2 questions (such as with "tell me about yourself") so that I can learn from your constructive feedback?

## Best practices

- After receiving your match via Slack, reach out via email or Slack to coordinate a time to connect for 20-30 minutes.
- Come with a positive attitude and be prepared with 3 questions/topics to speak about.
- Establish trust with your match by honoring time commitment (start/end time).
- Take note of actionable takeaways, feedback, resources, etc.
- Continue the relationship building by sending a personalized note via LinkedIn!