**Career Readiness Task #3: Networking**

This is the third of five tasks in your Career Management milestone to earn your Career Ready badge. In your last career readiness task, you worked on your social media presence and building your LinkedIn page. This task takes that assignment one step further by focusing on networking. Networking is the process of building relationships with people and gaining their trust. Complete this worksheet to practice and improve your networking skills:

1. **Membership and Group Search**

Log in to your LinkedIn page. Perform a search for memberships and groups that interest you either personally or professionally. Searching for personal interests is fine here since you are doing it within the confines of LinkedIn and not a random internet search. Identify 4-5 groups that look appealing to you. List those groups here and describe in 2-3 sentences each why these groups caught your eye. Be sure to mix it up so that not all of your identified groups are personal. Provide professional groups too.

Answer:

1. [Full-stack web developer](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/10330788/) - This was the first option that populated after searching for “Web Development” in Linkedin Groups. As an aspiring full stack developer, I believe I can glean valuable information from this group, which can help me be more successful in the industry.
2. [Frontend Developer and Web Developers](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7025688/) - As frontend web development will probably be my first job in the industry, I thought I’d reach out to a group that specializes in frontend development. Here I might gain tips and tricks on how to master the trade and become more full rounded.
3. [Web Developer Jobs](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3825479/) - As someone looking for that entry level position; this group is the most important one on my list, as it is the most practical for my current situation. If I can land a job through networking in this group, then I would consider that a great success!
4. [Junior Web developer](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8108124/) - This group (like the frontend Developer group) can also lead me to important tips, tools, and best practices. Joining this group would be of great benefit to anyone trying to make their impression as someone new in the industry.

**Events**

Identify online, live, or local events that these groups sponsor or encourage their members to attend. List and describe 4-5 events here. You may also search

[https://www.meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com/) to find live local events in your city or town.

- Kansas City MO; a panel style online event. Guest speakers from Microsoft and Google.

1. **Web Development Fundamentals (remote only, hosted by codesmith) -** While there’s beauty in the basics, I feel like joining this group would be a great opportunity to not only get a refresher on web design, but also to possibly network.
2. **Creating Future Ready Web Developers (hosted online) -** This free event teaches its attendees about accessibility and usability in Web Development. This is a foundational and very important skill in the trade, and it wouldn't hurt to dive deeper into the subject.
3. **Coffee & Code (also virtual) -** This one interests me because it is not a class, but instead a place to network, meet new friends, and code with new people. I think there could be multiple opportunities to learn new things that will stick for a while.
4. **Interview Practice: Online and in-person success -** This group (also hosted by meetup.com) basically puts you through mock interviews with tips. For someone actively seeking a first job in the web development industry, I feel like these live events could help boost skill and confidence for anyone’s public speaking abilities.
5. **Practice Making Connections**

Reach out to colleagues or peers on LinkedIn. Instead of the generic greeting that comes standard, tailor your invitation to be more personable. Identify 4-5 individuals that you will reach out to on LinkedIn and write a personal invitation to connect with them. Draft your invitations below. Keep them personalized yet professional utilizing known industry key-words.

1. Gregor McHardy - Hello Gregor, I just took your FSW-113 class and appreciate all the help. I value you as a teacher and a mentor and would like to stay in touch through Linkedin.
2. Gloria Villasenor - Hello Gloria, I’ve been in your classes thus far at BU and have appreciated your help and availability during those terms. I would like to connect with you on Linkedin.
3. Dylan Yates - Good evening Dylan, I would like to connect with you on Linkedin. As a gym partner, and former school colleague, we have made numerous valuable connections that can be shared professionally.
4. Mitch Schaeffer - Hello Mitch, I would like to connect with you on Linkedin. As a brother in Christ, fellow Marine, mentor, and friend, you have taught me many priceless lessons that I will never forget.
5. **SMART Networking Goals**

Now that you’ve identified and explored personal and professional associations, join them! This is the best way to stay abreast of what is going on in your industry and interest areas. You’ve also made some personal connections on LinkedIn so you’re on your way to networking. The last part of this assignment utilizes the SMART goals method. Your task is to plan out your networking goals using the SMART method. Recall that SMART stands for:

**S**pecific (simple, sensible, significant),

**M**easurable (meaningful, motivating),

**A**chievable (agreed, attainable),

**R**elevant (reasonable, realistic) and

**Time-bound** (timely, time-sensitive).

Plan your networking goals using this method. Identify the time period (2-weeks, 1-month, 3-months…), how many connections you want to make, how many events you wish to attend, and how many informational interviews you hope to conduct, for example.

**Time Period: 4 months**

**Goals:**

1. **Finish my resume / add projects**
2. **Apply to internships and entry level jobs**
3. **Land some interviews and keep improving resume**
4. **land my first development job.**

**Time period: 12 months**

**Goals:**

1. **Prepare for graduation.**
2. **Keep making personal projects for portfolio**
3. **I am well seated in the industry as an entry-level developer.**
4. **Make a personal professional website to showcase portfolio projects**
5. **Transition from a frontend developer to a backend or full stack Web Developer**