Career Essentials

Presented by Benjamin Ward

Overview

- Networking

- LinkedIn

- Features and Benefits of LinkedIn

- Steps in Profile Development

- Profile Content Tips

- LinkedIn Usage

- Resume Tips

What is networking?

- The process of making connections and building relationships.

- These connections can provide you with advice and contacts, which can help you make informed career decisions.

- Professionals use networking to expand their circle of acquaintances, find out about job opportunities in their fields, and increase their awareness of news and developments in their fields.

What are the benefits of networking?

• Strengthen business connections

• Getting fresh ideas

• Advancing your career

• Receiving career advice and support

• Building confidence and gaining a different perspective

• Developing long-lasting personal relationships

Why is networking important?

- Networking is the single most effective method of advancing your career.

- While networking may not "get you a job," it does play a role in the majority of hiring decisions.

- Many job vacancies are never advertised, but instead filled through some form of personal or professional referrals.

- Employers prefer to hire candidates they have met, or those referred by a trusted source.

Tips on how to build your network

- Search for people who can make a difference (seek out individuals who can make a difference in your career)

- Ask your current network for connections

- Consider your passions

- Be willing to help first

- Develop an online presence

- Stay updated in your industry or field

Expand your network

- Attend campus career events, fairs, presentations, and workshops

- Obtain an internship and maintain contact with colleagues and supervisors

- Take advantage of shadowing programs

- Create a LinkedIn profile; connect to your contacts and join groups as appropriate

What is LinkedIn?

- LinkedIn is the world's largest professional network on the internet.

- You can use LinkedIn to find the right job or internship, connect and strengthen professional relationships, and learn the skills you need to succeed in your career.

- The goal of the site is to enable registered members to establish and document networks of people they know and trust professionally.

- LinkedIn is also a resource for professionals to find jobs, research companies, and get news about their industry and business connections.

Features and Benefits of LinkedIn

- Gain exposure to Hiring Managers and Recruiters

- Demonstrate your knowledge, credibility, and leadership expertise

- Use LinkedIn as a research tool

- LinkedIn has a great job board

- You can gain social proof for your skills and talents

- Follow Companies

- Join LinkedIn Groups

Steps in Profile Development
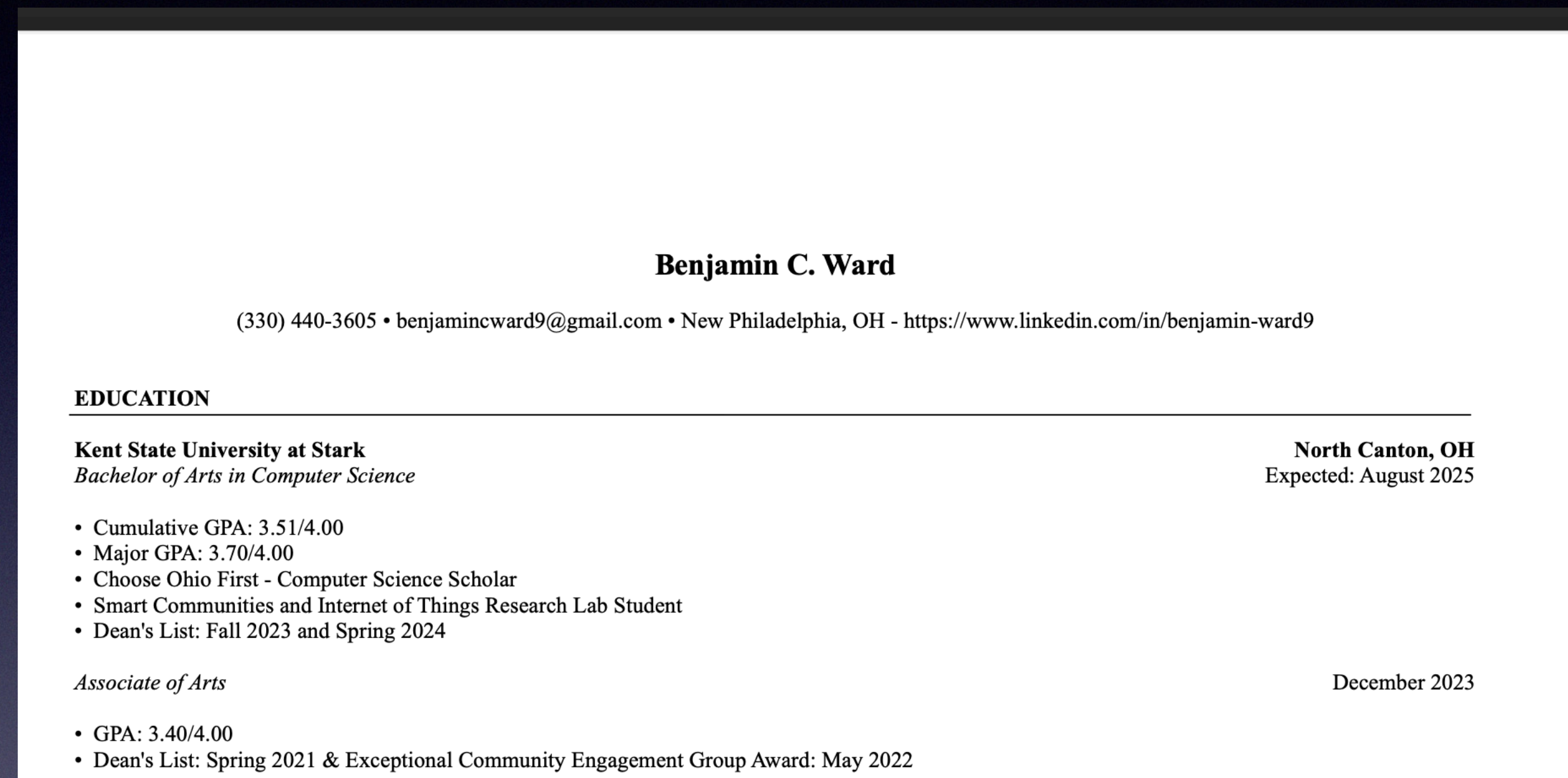
- [LinkedIn Profile Best Practices](#)

Profile Content Tips

- How To Write Engaging LinkedIn Posts

LinkedIn Usage

- Dedicate 15-20 minutes each week to scroll through LinkedIn and make new connections.

- Post once or twice per week. Showcase new projects or experiences.

- Give and receive recommendations or endorsements.

- Observe professional etiquette on LinkedIn.

Resume Tips

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EDUCATION

Kent State University at Stark   **North Canton, OH**
Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science   Expected: August 2025

- Cumulative GPA: 3.51/4.00
- Major GPA: 3.70/4.00
- Choose Ohio First - Computer Science Scholar
- Smart Communities and Internet of Things Research Lab Student
- Dean's List: Fall 2023 and Spring 2024

Associate of Arts   December 2023

- GPA: 3.40/4.00
- Dean's List: Spring 2021 & Exceptional Community Engagement Group Award: May 2022

- Formatting is key.

- Use a professional email, not an email like cutepuppies222@gmail.com.

- In the education field within your resume, make sure to add your cumulative GPA, major GPA, any clubs you may be in and any honors that you have earned.

Resume Tips

SKILLS

Languages: C++, Java, Python, JavaScript (React, Node.js), HTML/CSS, MIPS Assembly
Frameworks: Flutter, Angular, Spring Boot
Development Tools: Git, Jenkins, AWS, Azure, Kubernetes, MARS
Software Engineering: Agile Methodologies, Test-Driven Development, Continuous Integration, RESTful API design

- Including a skills section makes you STAND OUT.

- Including skills will give the recruiter an idea of what you know and what you may be good at.

Resume Tips

EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer Intern   May 2024-August 2024
Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company (through Innosource)   Columbus, OH (Remote)

• Assisted in development on the Flagship Mobile team using Flutter, JavaScript, Postman, and Jenkins.
• Supported test automation strategy, created test plans, and executed test automation frameworks.
• Created and implemented ten Maestro tests to automate regression testing scenarios, ensuring screen features were operating correctly and reducing manual testing time by eight hours per week.
• Implemented secure software and systems engineering practices throughout the delivery lifecycle to ensure data and technology solutions are protected from threats and vulnerabilities.
• Led engagement initiatives as a member of the Nationwide Intern Council, organizing networking events that significantly increased intern participation.

Front End Developer & Social Media Project Manager Internship   September 2023-December 2023
Nuubi   Miami, FL (Remote)

• Assisted in backend and frontend development using PostgreSQL, Node, Express, JavaScript, and React Native.
• Debugged and worked on issues related to backend and frontend development, working towards timely resolutions.
• Integrated APIs, services, and third-party libraries to enhance app functionality.
• Developed and executed social media campaigns aligned with brand vision.
• Ensured that all projects were delivered on time, within scope.

• Include an experience section that demonstrates what you have worked on and the impact you have made.

• A big thing that recruiters look for are quantifiers within your experience. For example "Quantifying your performance provides specificity for the hiring professional who is reading your resume. A phrase such as "significantly increased new client acquisition" can mean a broad range of performance results to a broad range of readers, whereas a direct quantity such as "oversaw a 37% growth in new client acquisition" states precisely how effective your work was."

• Numbers help your resume to stick in the mind of the hiring professional. Often for competitive positions, there will be several rounds of assessment in which the field of potential hires is narrowed down. Specific quantities separate your resume from comparable applicants', improving your chances of being moved on to the next phase of the hiring process.

Resume Tips

CERTIFICATIONS

Career Essentials in Generative AI, Microsoft, May 2024
Career Essentials in Software Development, Microsoft, May 2024
Career Essentials in GitHub, GitHub, May 2024
Project Management Foundations, LinkedIn Learning, July 2024

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Volunteer   July 2023-Present
ENGin   Kyiv, Ukraine (Remote)

• Held English practice sessions with two Ukrainian adults.
• Facilitated language skill development through conversational exchanges.
• Supported Ukraine's post-war reconstruction by connecting citizens to the global community.

Volunteer   January 2015-Present
Special Olympics of Tuscarawas County   New Philadelphia, OH

• Actively participated in community clean-up and enrichment projects, contributing to local, environmental, and social improvements.
• Engaged in multiple philanthropy events, helping to raise funds for various charitable organizations.

- Certifications and leadership engagement are KEY.

- Some great ways to earn certifications are through LinkedIn Learning, Pluralsight, and Coursera.

- Certifications show the recruiter that you are eager to learn.

- "Volunteer work is often just as valuable and important for your career as paid work. Listing volunteer work on your resume can demonstrate to potential employers that you are community minded, experienced in working with people from diverse backgrounds, and have a range of transferable skills."

What should your resume look like?

- A few good resume generator sites include: resume.io, resume.com, and resumenerd.ai

Connect with me!

Feel free to connect with me via LinkedIn!

Benjamin Ward

Software Engineer Intern at Nationwide | Computer Science | Kent State University at Stark | Choose Ohio First Scholar

New Philadelphia, Ohio, United States · **Contact info**

https://bward29.github.io/BenjaminWard.github.io/

1,622 followers · **500+ connections**

Nationwide

Kent State University at Stark

Open to   Add profile section   More