**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**

Login 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.

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| Web Design and Development- I looked into this group because it is a group to discuss and share the latest developments in the Web World. Would be great for keeping up with updates or changes to any language of coding  Web design and programming – I looked into this group because it is more for asking questions and getting help with code that you are working on. Similar to the first group, but more like a large Stackoverflow forum  Computers and Graphics – This one is more of a person group. I really enjoy building pc’s and this groups is a discussion group on all the latest and upcoming PC news  Interview Questions and Answers- This group is there to give you an idea of what questions to expect in an interview depending on what you are interviewing for  Technology and Freelance Project – I know that Freelancing is a long ways away. But this group is a sort of classified ads type group for freelancing projects to do |

1. **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.

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| I am not from a very large city or town so there are a whole lot of local events going on:  Central Arkansas JavaScript Monthly Meeting- Small meetup group that has a monthly meeting to discuss changes in JS and help each other learn  Global Game Jam- Collaboration and Experimentation event to learn how to create simple games/ apps on the weekends  Code Together – A free meetup to bring questions and projects along with you to ask others questions and get help. Great time to work alongside and connect with others  Code Til Dawn – A meetup for anyone interested in coding. Encouraged to bring kids, and anyone from beginner to advanced coding level.  Tech on Tap – A social event for technology enthusiasts to meet up and connect. Has monthly speakers and free beer(lol) |

1. **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.

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| Hi there! I was a student of Bryan University as well. I am trying to broaden my connections and networking here on LinkdIn. I have been working a lot with JavaScript and React recently but of course, am trying to learn more! Care to connect and maybe help each other out? Have a great day! |

1. **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

**T**ime 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.

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| Your Goal: Graduate from BU Fullstack Web Development to further education with an associates in Computer IT & Networking  SMART action items to achieve your goal:  S: Will stay committed throughout the next school year to learning as much as possible  M: By May, 2021 have an Associates in Full Stack Web Development and be registering for my next Associates  A: Will still have 2 years of my GI Bill left after completion of this degree  R: After a degree in each, will have a broad scope of available positions within the industry  T: May 2021 |