## **HOW TO: NETWORK**

Linkedin: Create a professional Linkedin profile that highlights your skills and experiences. Engage with industry-related content and connect with professionals in your field.

Elevator Pitch: Prepare a concise introduction about yourself that includes your background, interests, and career goals. This will help you confidently introduce yourself at networking events.

Attend Events: Participate in job fairs, alumni panels, and industry conferences to meet professionals face-to-face. Dress appropriately and come prepared with resumes or business cards.

Ask Questions and Actively Listen: When meeting new contacts, ask open-ended questions about their experiences and insights. Show genuine interest in their responses to build rapport.

Demystify it, Don't intensify It: Networking" is simply making connections with people in your industry. We make connections every single day in various aspects of our lives. You do not need to be an extrovert or a people-person to make genuine connections with people. Be yourself, and don't let it be a scary word!

Send Thanks: Send personalized thank-you emails or messages after meeting someone new. Reference specific details from your conversation to remind them of who you are.

Maintain Connections: Stay in touch with your network by periodically checking in, sharing updates about your progress, or offering assistance when possible. You'll be surprised how even large industries feel small!

Utilize Alumni Networks: Whether at Mt. SAC or any other institution you attend, tap into the alumni network to maximize connections.

Practice Give And Take: Ask yourself how your skill set can assist others. Colleagues tend to remember someone who offers solutions to their problems. When the relationship becomes mutually beneficial, you are able to tap into their network and beyond.