

Participate in Networking Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Most college students have commitments that absorb much of their time outside of the classroom. Where possible, it is critical to prioritize your participation in **networking events and volunteer opportunities** that allow you to interact with individuals from the local community. As you take part in these type of activities, you will be exposed to a wider range of individuals who might possibly connect you to your next internship or job. Keep in mind that for any of these networking events, it is important to remember to **wear appropriate, business casual clothing**: nice jeans, khakis, knee-length skirt, button-down shirt, sweater, closed-toe dress shoes, modest hair and makeup, modest jewelry. Avoid wearing form-fitting clothes and exposing a lot of skin. Below are some additional thoughts to consider.

- Attend **networking events** hosted by BPA. Even if you think it is too early in your education for you to take part in these events, it will be important for you to meet and to connect with individuals in the local business community. Attending these events could demonstrate to employers that you are committed to your education and to your efforts to establish a successful career.
- Order **business cards** from the CSUB Print Shop. You likely will not need to order too many, but it will be helpful for you to have cards to exchange with those you meet at networking events. Think of your card as a mini resume, and include your name, contact information (be sure to list your @csub.edu email account!), major, concentration, expected date of graduation, and perhaps a specific employment- or academic-related accomplishment, like conference participation or a faculty research project you took part in. You can learn details about the ordering process at the CSUB Print Shop website (bit.ly/2SRGo1s), and click on “Web Print” when you are finally ready to submit an order. Feel free to contact the Print Shop if you have any questions about design or order.
- Volunteer to assist at **events hosted by BPA**. A particular event might seem uninteresting to you, but you may strike a conversation with someone there that could point you in the right direction to an opportunity. You can also learn about local organizations in need of volunteers by attending the **Volunteer Fair** that is organized every semester by CECE. Check out the CECE career events page or log in to Handshake for more details.
- Identify a local organization whose cause is important to you and offer to volunteer at its events. Community service is typically important to business and organizational leaders, and you may find yourself serving side-by-side with someone who could be a great resource as you start your career.