

Effective Strategies for Networking at the Public Interested Conference

The Public Interested Conference is a great way to meet alumni working in various areas within the public interest sector. Alumni are looking forward to meeting you during the Networking Reception from 4:00-5:00 p.m. Remember--networking is nothing more than collecting research and talking with people who can provide you with information, advice, resources, and possible contacts related to your fields of interest. Develop your connections to learn about opportunities beyond what is posted on Crimson Careers. Below are some tips for the event:

- **Review the Public Interested Conference book in advance of Saturday's event for the names and bios of the alumni who have signed up to attend.** Identify 1-3 (or more) alumni you might be interested in connecting with during the Networking Reception. This will help you to get started, and not feel so overwhelmed once the reception starts.
- **After Big Public Service Ideas, we will display a map of the set-up of the Networking Reception.** The map will show the locations of the various stations based on specific fields/industry areas. Look at your list of alumni for information on their specific field(s) of interest so that you will know which station they will be at, and where the station will be located.
- **Visit the stations that are of interest to you, and introduce yourself to alumni.** Start by sharing your name, class year, concentration, and your area(s) of interest. Ask alumni about their work, how they got started in their field, advice they may have for you, opportunities/organizations that they think you should look into or any specific questions you may have for them. Please see a staff member if you would like us to facilitate an introduction. Alumni are excited to meet you, and to learn more about your interests!
- **Spend ~5-10 minutes talking.** If the conversation you are having seems relevant to your interest areas, ask for the alum's business card so that you can follow-up after the Conference. Within a few days, send a thank you email so that they will have your contact information and be able to reach out and contact you if something crosses their desk that might be of interest to you.
- **If there is a lull in the conversation or if you are ready to move on to another station, graciously make your exit.** You can simply say, "I think I have taken enough of your time. It was great to meet you. Thank you so much."
- **If there is someone who you were hoping to meet, but didn't get a chance, reach out to them after the Conference.** Check out the Conference booklet for alumni contact information, and reach out to them for an informational meeting either in person (if they are local) or over the phone. Our [Making Connections](#) guide is a helpful resource on setting up an effective informational meeting.

Have fun and enjoy the Conference!