

When it comes to your job search, it is important to share your job search goals with your existing network and seek out new connections to expand your network.

IDENTIFYING YOUR NETWORK

It is important to take inventory of your existing network. Who is part of it? How can they help?

Who is part of your existing network?

In order to effectively answer this question it is helpful to remove the job search context from this exercise. Often times job seekers focus only on people in their network who are working within their desired career field. This approach is short-sighted. The goal of this exercise is to identify people with whom you have a meaningful connection with based on shared trait or experience. This typically includes:

- Family members
- Friends
- Current Rossier classmates, faculty and staff
- Current colleagues from your current job, volunteer experience and organizations
- Former classmates from previous schools attended
- Former colleagues from previous jobs, volunteer experiences and organizations

How can they help?

Another characteristic that is shared among this group is their genuine interest in your success. These people are going to be your biggest and most reliable supporters. They will have no problem sharing honest and constructive feedback on your job search strategy, resume, cover letter and communication skills. They will also gladly facilitate introductions to individuals in their network of contacts that are involved in areas related to your job search.

EXPANDING YOUR NETWORK

Let's face it, simply relying on your existing network will not get you far in the job search. You need to expand your networking efforts and meet people that can provide direct access to the types of jobs and employers you are targeting. Listed below are a few recommended approaches:

- Leveraging your existing network to help make introductions
- Attending recruitment events and career panels that offer exposure to professional in your targeted field
- Get involved with professional associations focused on your job search targets
- Conduct online research using LinkedIn, alumni directories and other resources.
- Connect with Faculty for information, advice and access to their network of contacts.
- Volunteering is not only a great resume builder, but another way to make valuable networking connections.