NETWORKS - A strong network serves as a resource throughout your life. The tightest networks are created by connections with individuals and require active participation. Learn how to build your network with steps to making connections and bonds.

“Going forward, faculty and staff will need to be intentional in their efforts to engage in authentic student interactions outside the classroom and to be fully integrated in the residential campus. We will create effective environments that support student learning, considering both the physical spaces and cultural elements of campus.”
- Purdue Teaching and Learning Excellence Initiative

“Don’t underestimate your ability to bring value to someone else.”
- Michelle Tillis Lederman, networking expert & author of The 11 Laws of Likability

RELATED RESEARCH

- Having close relationships and having social support serves as a buffer against depression and mental health problems.

- Keeping in touch with others who are not close to you can be a source of information and also provide opportunities for growth, career, relationships, and more.

- Networking is related to increased internal and external perceived employability by boosting access to information and resources.

- The patterns of students’ close ties with others predicted their perception of available support, and subsequently, perceptions of subjective well-being and sense of belonging.

purdue.edu/stepstoleaps  StepstoLeaps@purdue.edu
INTEGRATION TIPS

- Review the Steps to Leaps Networks module at the Steps to Leaps website. 
  [https://www.purdue.edu/stepstoleaps](https://www.purdue.edu/stepstoleaps)
- Share with students the personal stories of other Boilermakers discussing the importance of building a network of support and mentorship. 
- As a faculty member, take time in a class to tell students how you are willing to support their academics and work with them beyond the content of the class. Explain your availability and research interests and if you are able to take on mentees or are willing to have discussions about how students can learn more about your field. You can also facilitate a sense of community in the classroom by providing group learning opportunities.
- Create casual opportunities for students to engage with faculty and staff members within your department.
- Encourage students to take advantage of the many formal networking opportunities and organizations provided on and near campus, including Purdue Alumni and Tippy Connect Young Professionals [http://www.greaterlafayettecommerce.com/tippy-connect-young-professionals](http://www.greaterlafayettecommerce.com/tippy-connect-young-professionals)

SOME OTHER CAMPUS RESOURCES

- Students can join PASE (Purdue Alumni Student Experience) to connect with fellow students and Purdue alumni. [https://www.purduealumni.org/pase/](https://www.purduealumni.org/pase/)
- Students can attend upcoming online Alumni networking events. [https://www.purduealumni.org/communities/online-networking/](https://www.purduealumni.org/communities/online-networking/)
- Students can join the Krannert network to reconnect, give back, expand, and advance. [https://krannertnetwork.com/](https://krannertnetwork.com/)

WHAT’S NEXT

- Some resources have been included in this document as examples for the Steps to Leaps Networks Pillar. We encourage you to identify programs you or your department provide for students that can be associated with the pillar. Opportunities will be provided to brand your programs with Steps to Leaps, as appropriate. If you have ideas for ways you can connect with Steps to Leaps, email stepstoleaps@purdue.edu.
- Attend the Steps to Leaps Networks Lunch & Learn for Faculty and Staff
  - Tuesday, November 19th, Noon - 1:00 p.m., Krach Leadership Center, Room 230
- Students will take a primary role in advancing Steps to Leaps. As you are made aware of students interested in being part of this initiative, please have them look out for a call out later this semester.