



Pair Event: Career Exploration



EVENT OBJECTIVES

Pairs will explore career options by engaging in speed networking to surface assets and connections in their community.

PURPOSE & CONTEXT

This event is centered around career access and understanding the process of networking. This is a life skill that will support mentees in their professional goals.

EVENT PREP

Set up a check-in table with event packets, pens/pencils, name badges, seating assignments and check in documents.

Post a few copies of the seating assignments on the walls. Make sure to use a large enough font!

AGENDA (90 min event/20 min huddle)

5 min	Welcome
20 min	Chat and Chew: Setting Up Speed Networking
30 min	Speed Networking
30 min	Career Fit Factors
5 min	Closing
20 min	Mentor Huddle

MATERIALS: Event Packet

AGENDA

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Welcome and Intro (5 min)	<p>TALKING POINTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome, everyone! Tonight, we have a fun event in store for you. We will be exploring career options by engaging in speed networking! ● Then, we will engage in identifying career pathway fit factors. ● Before we get to all of that, let's chat and chew. <p><i>Let pairs know what time mentees will be dismissed from the event. Share any housekeeping logistics (where the restrooms are, how to get your attention during the event if they need it, introduce other school and event staff in the room, etc.).</i></p>
Chat and Chew: Setting Up Speed Networking (20 min)	<p>TALKING POINTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mentees, you will soon be speed networking with other mentors. ● Speed networking is a fast-paced networking event. You are allowed a short amount of time to meet a number of professionals, one at a time. During this meeting, you can ask questions about the individual's work experience and employment sector. Think of it as a quick interview that is focused on expanding your professional knowledge and opportunities. ● As you eat, practice with your own mentor using the guide in your packet! Remember, practice makes perfect!
Speed Networking (30 min)	<p>TALKING POINTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pairs, you will be completing 4 rounds of speed networking. Mentees, when I say so, you will find a mentor in the room and engage in the speed networking process. When I say "rotate," you will move on to the next mentor. ● <i>Note: Each round should last 5 minutes. You should be keeping track of the time and signaling when mentees should move on to a new mentor. After the activity, have mentees rejoin their mentor and answer the debrief questions. Then bring your cohort back together to debrief in the larger group together.</i>

Career Fit Factors (30 min)	TALKING POINTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Just as there are fit factors to keep in mind when deciding on a post-secondary pathway of choice, there are also fit factors to think over as you try to find a career to pursue. ● Go through the career fit factors in your packet and answer the questions with your mentor. If you don't have a career in mind, focus on the more general questions. You can backwards plan afterwards to find careers that meet your fit factors. ● Debrief question at the end: Which fit factor is the most important to you and why?
Closings (5 min)	ANNOUNCEMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share the date of the next event. ● Remind pairs to continue their weekly communication. ● Express gratitude and appreciation for their dedication to the program. ● Share any school-specific context and updates.

Mentor Huddle: The Importance of Career Access	
ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
Ice Breaker (9 min)	TALKING POINTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thank you so much for joining our event today! Let's start off with a quick ice breaker. ● You will have two rounds, each lasting 4 minutes, of speed networking with the other mentors in our cohort. I will let you know when it is time to move onto the second round of speed networking. Let's get started!
The Importance of Career Access (8 min)	TALKING POINTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Can I have a few folks share about their experience with the mentee speed networking? What did you observe as you spoke to the mentees? ● Career access is an important part of our programming because we know that simply enrolling in a post-secondary pathway is not enough to ensure the success of our young people. Our mentees must learn how to engage in the professional environment, build networks, and develop an understanding of how to enter their career field of interest. This is no easy feat. Luckily, they have you by their side.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We are going to take the next few moments to brainstorm how to expose mentees to different career options. Please get into groups of 3 and discuss the prompt. ● Debrief: Let's share the ideas we have come up with.
Announcements/ Closings (3 min)	TALKING POINTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Share any important school/program updates.● Encourage mentors to leave their mentee an app message after the event in which they reiterate how excited they were to meet with them/how they are looking forward to the next meeting.● Thank mentors for attending the event.● Remind mentors that they can always reach out for support.