

## Where to Make Connections

- Your Current Organization:** Broaden your network beyond your immediate team
- Past Organizations:** Reconnect with colleagues with whom you've previously worked
- Professional Conferences and Events:** Try to socialize and be intentional about making new connections
- Volunteer Committees:** Help organize professional conferences, serve on boards and participate in fundraising groups
- Regional Alumni Clubs:** Join your local region for opportunities to attend year-round activities such as networking, social, athletic and service events
- Nova Network:** Connect with fellow Wildcats and join groups of interest in addition to your regional group
- LinkedIn:** Connect with colleagues, join groups and see best practices on the LinkedIn Checklist for Experienced Villanovans

## How to Deepen Connections

- Ask for an informational interview for the chance to meet one-on-one and ask questions about their profession and career path
- Check-in now and then to maintain connections by sending relevant articles or congratulating them on a known accomplishment; don't wait until you need something from them
- Find ways to give back to your mentor; networking is a two-way street
- Like, comment and share content on LinkedIn and the Nova Network
- Consider informational interviewing with more than two professionals in your role, industry or employer of interest to ensure a diverse set of perspectives

## Tips for Networking Conversations

- Never ask for a job; ask for advice and guidance
- Be confident and share your skills and background
- Inquire about passions, hobbies and interests to find common ground
- Say thank you often and be appreciative of their time and advice
- Listen attentively
- Don't be afraid to ask questions
- Ask how you can be of service
- Follow up with a thank you note via email within 24 hours. Send a thank you note through traditional mail as a standout addition