

# **Networking for Success**





November 8th, 2016

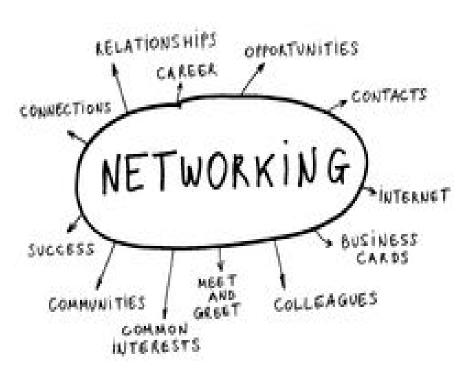




### Let's Get Started!

- Assess your networking skills
- Introduce yourself in a genuine, memorable way..... with your *pitch*
- Make a positive first impression
- Build self-confidence and dress for success
- Become a conduit or a connector, give first and be helpful
- Followup and Organize your network





Business networking is an effective way to connect people, develop meaningful relationships, grow your contacts and create opportunities for your business or personal interests.



#### **Preparing to Network**

- What reasons do you have for participating?
   to learn? to grow contacts? to volunteer?
- Select groups that spark your interest observe the integrity and attitude of the
   group
- Arrive early for a better opportunity to meet a new contact



#### **Preparing to Network**

- Attend with a goal in mind
- Demonstrate a positive and friendly attitude



- Be focused and ready to engage
- Feel self-confident



#### **Preparing to Network**



- Have a quick compelling
- Dress appropriately for the event
- Bring business cards
- Be ready to help others
- Prepare to respond or follow through



### **Things to Consider / Upcoming Events**

- Geography
- Size
- Industry/Sector
- Demographics
- Academic or career affiliations
- Areas of common interest







### **Tips to Contributing**

Greet people at the sign-in table

- Come early to help set up
- Approach the group ready to help
- Give!
- Ask "How can I help?"







#### **Body Language**

### **Elements of Body Language**

- Voice, tone, tempo, and rhythm of the room
- Facial expressions
- Head movements
- Posture and body position
- Eye contact, and visual cues



#### **Body Language**

### **Elements of Body Language**





#### **Body Language**

#### **Engaged**

- Usually leans forward
- Often animated, using gestures and imagery
- More emotions in the conversation

#### Disengaged



- Usually leans back
- Uses fewer gestures and practical language
- More objective in the conversation





**Body Language** 

### Match/Mirror





#### The Handshake

#### **Five Factors**

- Eye contact
- Degree of firmness
- Dryness of hand
- Depth of grip
- Duration of grip





#### The Handshake

### **Tips for Success**

Have something to say as your shake hands...
 (Smile and say your name . . .)



A two-handed shake may be too familiar



### Handshake Help / LET'S PRACTICE / Feedback



1

Very Ineffective



3

Somewhat Effective



5

Very Effective



#### Let's add the Pitch

- Make eye contact, smile!
- Extend your hand
- State your name
- State your business name
- If relevant, include where you operate
- Make it authentic and memorable



The Pitch – 15 seconds



#### Sample Introduction:

Hello, my name is **Deborah Cox** with Training Warehouse here in Edmonton.

Our training inspires business performance.



The Pitch – 15 seconds



#### Sample Introduction:

"Hello, my name is **Jim Spiers** – I am with Microbusiness Training Centre here in Edmonton.

We are in the business of building success in others!"





#### Write YOUR Pitch - YOUR TURN!

- Make eye contact, smile!
- Extend your hand
- State your name
- State your business name
- If relevant, include where you operate
- Make it authentic and memorable





#### Start the Conversation

#### **Techniques to Reduce Nervousness**

- Prepare
- Breathe deeply
- Visualize
- Practice your pitch





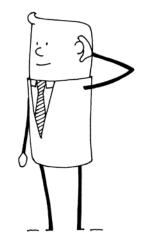
Start the Conversation

#### You Can Do It!

- It's natural to be nervous
- Learning and planning for conversations will help
- "Small Talk" takes work and practice



Start the Conversation



#### **Active Listening**

- Commit to listening to others as they speak
- People typically like to talk about themselves
- "Small Talk" helps lead to areas of common ground and interests



#### Start the Conversation

### Five Steps to Engaging in "Small Talk"

- 1. Before the event, list your interests and/or experiences
- 2. Avoid controversial topics
- 3. Make eye contact and smile
- 4. Ask easy, open-ended questions
- 5. Listen for the other person's name and use it



Start the Conversation

#### "Small Talk" / Open-Ended Questions



- "What brings you to this . . . event / meeting?"
- "What other U of A events have you attended?"
- "How did you learn about today's event?"
- W W W H ?



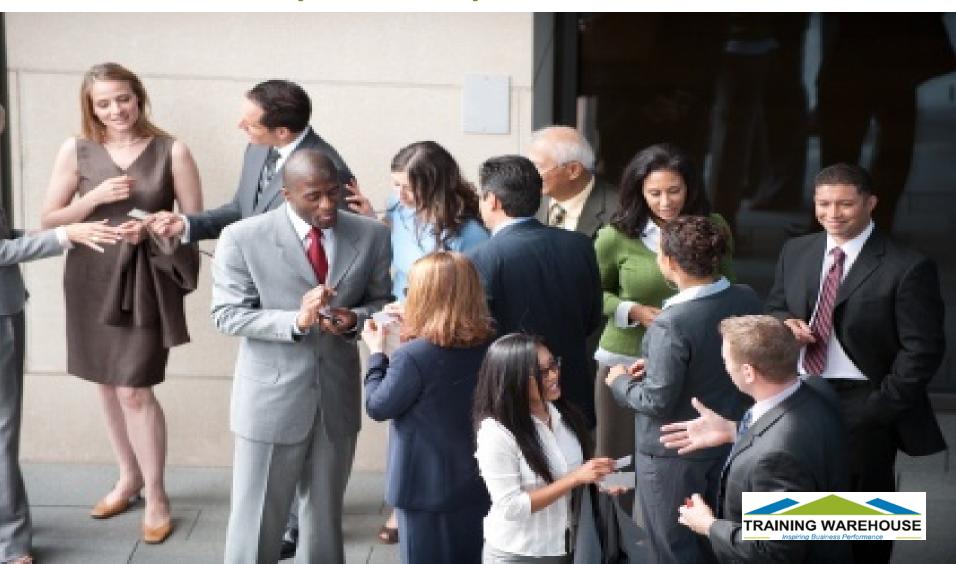
#### Start the Conversation

- Approach a group, smile, but don't actually interrupt the conversation
- Listen to get the gist of the conversation
- When the time is right, contribute



### **Let's Practice**

The Handshake / The Pitch / Small Talk



**Business Card Etiquette** 



**Business Card Etiquette** 

### **Tips and Tricks**

 Don't hand out a card to everyone you meet



- Make sure your cards are in good condition
- When you receive a card, take time to look at it
- Don't refuse to take a card



**Business Card Etiquette** 

### **Electronic Card Sharing**

- Physical cards remain the standard in networking
- Some people prefer electronic cards (V-cards)
- Be flexible when you are at a networking event
- Some apps work better than others!
- QR code is an electronic piece of information



#### **Business Card Etiquette**

- Don't have business cards yet, don't worry!
- Online resources like VistaPrint and Zoom fast, affordable and decent quality
- Should you attend a networking event without a business card?







#### **Become a CONDUIT!**

- Connect
- Open yourself up to new opportunities
- Nurture these relationships
- Direct your attention toward others
- Understand others
- Interest yourself in others
- Treat everyone as if they have something to offer







#### **Become a CONNECTOR!**

- Start by introducing yourself
- Introduce people to one another
- Be pleasant and approachable
- Have a purpose for being there

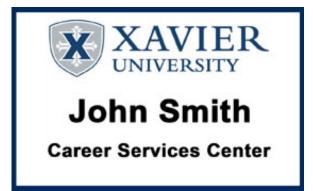


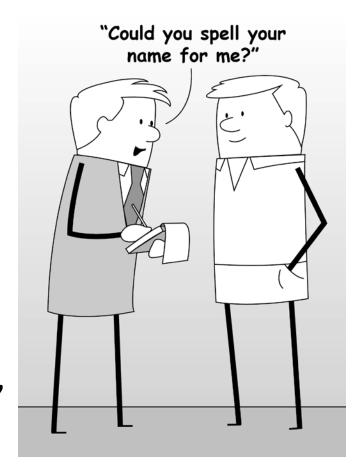


#### **Remembering Names**

#### **Repeat Their Name**

- "Did I pronounce it correctly?"
- "Could you repeat your name for me?"
- "Can you spell your name?"







#### **Remembering Names**

Notes on the back of a business card:

- Where?
- When?
- WIFM (What's in it for me my benefit)?
- Feature?

```
"U of A / Nov 8-2016 / hockey fan / volunteer STARS / athletic / likes cats"
```



**Remembering Names** 



#### **Confess!**

- If you recognize someone and have forgotten their name, admit it
- Be honest and say, "It's great to see you again, but I cannot recall your name."



### **Tips for Self-Confidence**

- Ready!? Deep breathes, relax your shoulders, stand up straight, head up, hands unclenched and think of something that makes you smile!
- Practice affirmations
- Body language projects strong signals

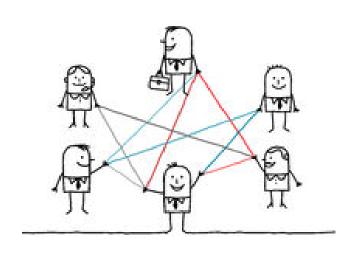


#### **Dress for Success**

- Plan your attire ahead of time
- Less is more when it comes to make-up and fragrance
- Create Your Personal Brand
- Build Self-Confidence in your image
- Look Sharp, Be Sharp!



# Following Up



#### If you say

"I'll call you at 9 am next Thursday!"......

- be sure you schedule to make the call!
- build trust and integrity
- Say..... AND Do



# Following Up

#### **Make it Personal**

- E-mail
- Text Messages
- Phone Calls
- Meetings



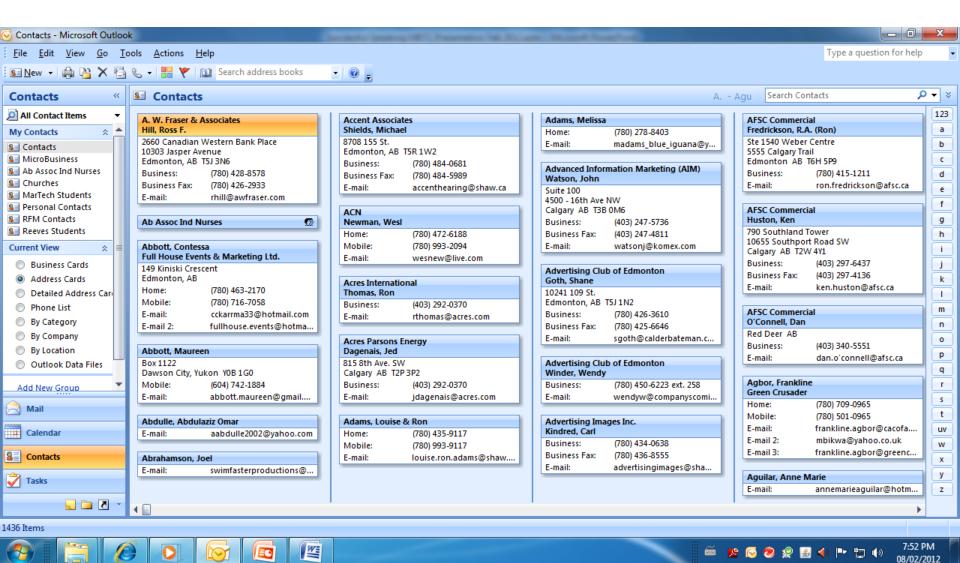


### **Organization Skills are Important!**

- Getting good is one of your goals
- Adopt a system and make it work for you i.e. Outlook, ACT, Google, Maximizer
- Keep track of things, know where to find them

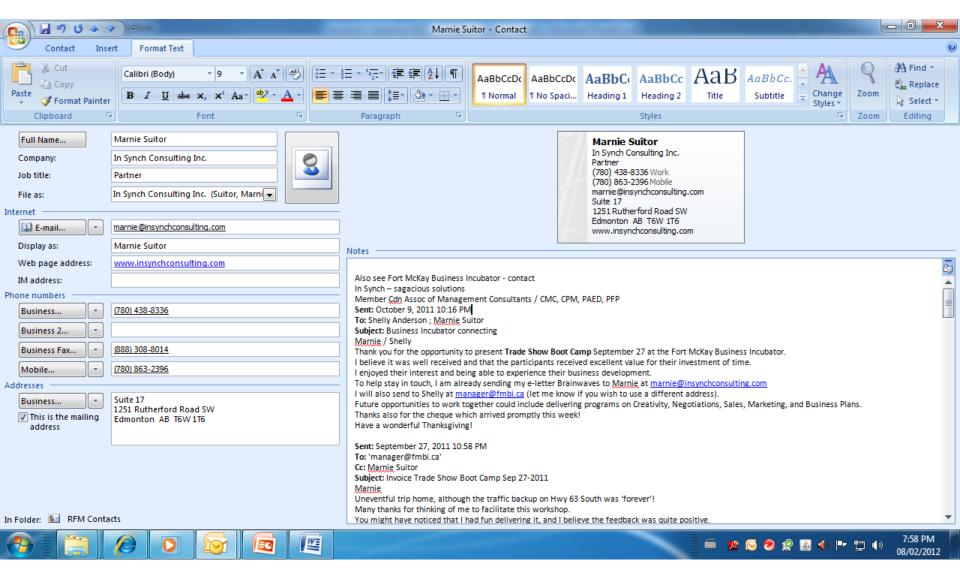


### **Customer Relationship Management**





### **Customer Relationship Management**





#### In Summary

- Determine what groups are important and relevant to your goals
- Become a conduit or connector
- Ask open-ended questions, offer solutions and share knowledge
- Become someone that can solve problems
- Keep notes to jog your memory



#### **Get Your Message Out**

- Many networking groups allow presentations from their members
- It is a good strategy to get yourself on the presentation schedule
- Make sure that you understand how the group works







### INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE

A Career Exploration Symposium for Graduate Students

November 8-9, 2016
Workshops, panels, and networking. Register now!
uab.ca/gradpd



### **Networking for Success**



Thank You!



# **Networking for Success Quick Reference Guide**





