NETWORKING

Over 75% of available jobs are never advertised. They are filled through networking, one of the most effective ways of finding employment and the “hidden” job market. It’s all about building and maintaining professional relationships.

How do I network?

1. Develop a statement you will use when introducing yourself to new contacts.

   Example: “I am a recent graduate of Kuyper College, where I majored in Youth Ministry and completed an internship at Ninth Reformed Church. I’m interested in finding a position in youth ministry where I can utilize my ministerial skills and training.”

2. Generate a networking list. Start NOW!

   Include: friends, family, Kuyper alumni, current and past supervisors and colleagues, classmates, teammates, professors, neighbors, church members, and acquaintances

   Continually add to your list as you meet new people. Brainstorm a list of anyone and everyone you know!

3. Never underestimate how valuable each person’s assistance might be or what connections they may enable you to make in the future.

4. Begin contacting your networking list in person or by email.

   • Introduce yourself using your networking statement. Ask if the person has any advice to offer related to entering the field. Ask about their career path.
   • Ask if they know of any openings for which you are qualified or anyone you should contact.

5. Keep records and track your correspondence.

6. Write a thank-you note to each person who offers advice or provides leads.

7. Keep in touch with your networking list, informing them of your progress.

Kuyper College Career Services