QUEEN’S CONNECTS

INTRODUCTION

- Queen’s Connects strengthens the contact between current and future alumni by providing facilitated student-to-alumni transition support, specifically around career development.

Queen's Connects

- Exclusive access to the Queen’s global alumni network can provide a powerful career support, and LinkedIn has emerged as the preferred resource (online or otherwise) for professional network development.
- Groups within LinkedIn provide a forum to facilitate interaction, discussion, and skill development.
- Other Queen’s alumni LinkedIn groups exist to which students have access, but the priority in this forum is to enable alumni to make a difference in the career progression of a student through conversations about transition into careers, fields, or roles.

OBJECTIVES

- To enhance communication between current students and Queen’s Alumni regarding career transition.
- To enable Queen’s Alumni to share their own career story or to share insights about their industry, field or role.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Efforts are focused on engaging alumni in different fields and industries to ensure a broad base of support, so that student inquiries are likely to receive a relevant response.
- At the end of the first year, Queen’s Connects had 1,585 total members (from a stretch goal of 500 members).
- In total, 35 posts with 93 associated comments.
- Role, tone, and focus of discussions achieved all goals.
- Advancement Contact Centre provided consistent, essential support for authenticating and coding participants in the Advance Database.
- Chancellor James Leech’s post on “Nine Key Qualities to help develop Successful Career Chemistry” received a record 46 “likes” in September 2015.
- As of February 2016, Queen’s Connects had 2,159 members.
- Students are posting questions and there is interest in engaging with alumni.

FUTURE PLANS

- To build toward a vibrant, thriving forum that links students and alumni, we need alumni volunteers to make a specific commitment to Queen’s Connects.
- By May 2016, the goal is to reach 2,500 members.
- Increase alumni participation from a diverse variety of employment sectors.

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PARTNERS IN PLANNING

- Queen’s Connects is the result of a collaboration between Career Services and Alumni Relations.

GET IN TOUCH!

- Join the Group: tinyurl.com/QueensConnects.
- Email: ben.seewald@queensu.ca.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

- Join the Queen’s Connects group next time you’re on LinkedIn.
- Consider a volunteer alumni role in Queen’s Connects for an industry sector, a specific period of the year, or for specific transitions (new graduate/mid-career/advanced).
- If you’re already part of the group, consider making Queen’s Connects part of your weekly routine.