MISSION

Our mission is to give YOU the network, resources, and accountability to develop both personally and professionally to succeed in whatever career path you chose.

VISION

Konnect strives to empower more women to step out of their comfort zone, break down barriers and explore the world of entrepreneurship, all while providing the platform and support to do so successfully. We envision Konnect to facilitate a close knit community of women who not only celebrate each other after the highs, but are there to motivate after the lows. Konnect aims to be a safe space to address the unique challenges that affect women throughout their careers by having open conversations about hard-to-breach topics, provide access to role models and create a community of women to lean on.
**WHAT IS KONNECT?**

Konnect is a 6-month (Oct 2020 - Mar 2021) program that provides a network, support system, and personal and professional development opportunities to amplify your success for self-identifying women who are interested in or are already starting businesses in Kingston. Konnect is run by the Dunin-Deshpande Queen’s Innovation Centre (DDQIC) and funded through the WE CAN (Women Entrepreneur Can) Project at Queen’s University through the federal Women’s Entrepreneurship Strategy (WES) Ecosystem Fund, which helps to address gaps and build capacity in the entrepreneurship ecosystem for women. The program will consist of biweekly sessions (see “Session Styles”) covering a wide variety of topics presented by experts in their fields, specifically targeted to help you reach your career goals in entrepreneurship and beyond. Due to COVID-19, this program will be running virtually (via Zoom) for the foreseeable future.

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<tr>
<th>Konnect Workshops</th>
<th>Konnect Huddles</th>
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<td>Personal (Fall) and Professional (Winter) Development Workshops facilitated by leaders in their respective fields.</td>
<td>Self-Reflection Sessions dispersed within the speaker-led workshops where you will be separated into “huddles” which are smaller groups to encourage engagement and connection between the cohort.</td>
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<td>Workshops will run for ~ 2 hours biweekly in the evening on a date chosen by the cohort.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Konnect Community</th>
<th>Coffee Konnections</th>
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<td>Virtual Platform (via Slack) to share resources, ask for help and stay connected in between sessions.</td>
<td>Opportunities to connect over “virtual coffee” with successful female entrepreneurs in the WE CAN network based upon aligned interests and expertise.</td>
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WHO CAN APPLY?

Open minded female identifying entrepreneurs who have either started their own venture, want to start their own businesses, or are interested in learning about entrepreneurship and personal/professional development. This can include undergraduate students, graduate students and community members within the Queen’s and/or Kingston network.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications will open September 1, 2020 at 12:01 am and end September 14, 2020 at 11:59 PM.

The application package can be found linked on the DDQIC Konnect website once the period has begun. We ask all interested candidates to spend time answering these questions as they will influence both the style of the speakers and trajectory of the program.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE IN THE KONNECT COHORT?

We strongly encourage cohort members to:

- Attend all workshops, as each session builds on each other and commitment is crucial to developing our community. Participants who attend 75%+ sessions will receive a certificate of completion.
- Arrive at each session with an open-mind ready to learn, listen and discuss as participants will only get as much from this program as they put in.
- Consistently engage on our virtual community platforms (ex. slack).
- Attend at least two “virtual coffee chats” through Coffee Konnections
DUE TO COVID-19, I will not be in Kingston this fall. Can I still apply to be a Konnect cohort member?

Absolutely! Under current circumstances, all aspects of the Konnect program throughout 2020 will take place virtually. Therefore, as long as you are part of the Queen’s or Kingston network you are welcome to apply with no limitations on global location. We will be following appropriate provincial guidelines and will reassess the situation in 2021.

STILL UNSURE ABOUT KONNECT?

If you are still on the fence about applying to Konnect, check out testimonials from some of our 2019/2020 cohort!

“Would you recommend Konnect to a friend or colleague?”

“Yes, I would 100% recommend Konnect to any of my friends (in fact I have talked their ears off about all the sessions already)! Being an indecisive person, who loves the people in the innovation space but has no clue exactly what I want to do with my life (no specific roadmap or 5 year plan) it’s super helpful to have a purpose every week to meet and learn from the stories and experiences of new people. Not only did I take away knowledge from Konnect, but I also gained mentors, and a supportive network of ambitious and open-minded people. When I have questions about my career, I always look to my fellow Konnect alumni.”

– Danielle Baxter | Directory of Experience @ BinoBooks, QICSI 2020, BSc 2019

“I am always encouraging my female entrepreneur colleagues to join Konnect. It is so empowering to have an entire support system of other female entrepreneurs helping you out and cheering you on.”

– Kara Lawrie | Co-Founder @ Diveri, QICSI 2020, BSc 2020

“How do you get the most out of Konnect?”

“You get from this program what you put in! Being vulnerable and sharing personal experiences allowed our group to form a strong support network far beyond the program, and I’m thankful to have this group to lean on!”

– Miki Kawano | Konnect Program Coordinator 2019/2020, Co-Founder at backr, QICSI 2019, BComm 2019
SESSION STYLES

We believe that the ability for a person to manifest success in their professional endeavours starts with the individual. Building up mental, emotional, and intellectual strength will translate into success in their professional and company endeavours. Konnect will target not only your professional development, but also personal in order to allow the most well-rounded you to flourish.

Check out some of our amazing workshops from last year:

**Personal Branding** by Claire Bouvier

Founder @ FEiST Studio, Small Business Advisor @ KEDCO

Claire shared the importance of developing your personal brand through social media and beyond. This session allowed cohort members to explore their ambitions and strengths to see how they can provide value to those around them.

**The Entrepreneurial Mindset** by Shari Hughson

Director of the Masters of Management, Innovation & Entrepreneurship @ Queen’s University

In this session, the cohort heard from Shari on her entrepreneurial journey and the lessons she’s learned along the way: Confidence, resilience, courage, and the importance of having a strong group to lean on while building your career.

**Intention Setting and Self-Reflection** by Vicki Thompson

Performance, Career and Life Coach

In this workshop, cohort members completed a thorough reflection on their year (health, career, relationships) facilitated by Vicki and learned tactical skills on how to find your values, and set goals you can actually achieve.
Sessions in Development for 2020/2021 (final workshop list TBD):

1. Balancing Productivity and Self-Care during COVID 19
2. Conflict Resolution and Breaking Into Tough Conversations
3. Finding Your Leadership Style
4. Motivation/Mentorship Panel with Female Leaders
5. LinkedIn Makeovers
6. How To Have an Open Conversation About Race and Bias

Cohort members also have access to a number of resources and programs within the Dunin-Deshpande Queen’s Innovation Centre:

- QyourVenture: https://www.queensu.ca/innovationcentre/programs/qyourventure-program
- Queen’s Innovation Centre Summer Initiative (QICSI):
  https://www.queensu.ca/innovationcentre/programs/qic-summer-initiative-program
- The Foundry: https://www.queensu.ca/innovationcentre/programs/foundry
- The Hive: https://www.queensu.ca/innovationcentre/programs/hive

HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS OR WANT TO KNOW IF KONNECT IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Please reach out to:

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