

College of Engineering Career Center

ECAMPUS CS CAREER SHOWCASE PREPARATION

Erich White
COE Career Advisor
Assistant Director, Career Development Center
September 10, 2024



Oregon State
University

WEBINAR RECORDING NOTE:

The primary focus of this evening's webinar is the group of synchronous participants. However, this workshop will be recorded and distributed to students unable to attend in real time. OSU students are the primary audience for distributed recordings, but our distribution channels may include platforms also available to the general public, such as the OSU Career Development Center Youtube channel.

If you prefer to remain anonymous, feel free to keep your camera off and choose a polite, appropriate non-identifiable user name. Also, if you prefer to ask questions anonymously, please address your question in the chat directly to your presenter rather than to "Everyone" in the chat, and we will answer that question without identifying the person who asked.

THANK YOU

amentum >



DSP
Connections
It's where you belong!

for being **corporate partners** of the Career Development Center!

THE PLAN FOR TODAY:



"Zen Meeting Room, Japan" by stefanx80 is licensed under [CC BY-SA 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/)

- Preparation Overview:
 - What to do before
 - What to do during
 - What to do afterwards
- Resources
- Q & A

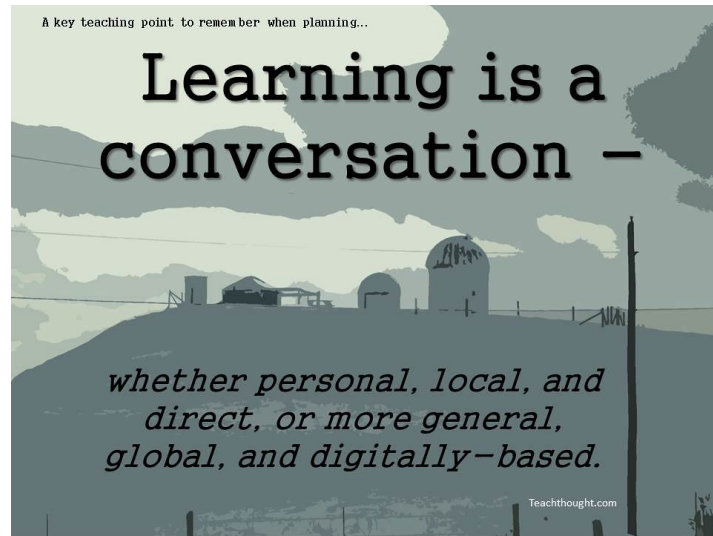
WHAT SHOULD I DO *BEFORE* THE SHOWCASE?

1. **Define your goals: what do you want from this experience?**
 - Build out your professional network
 - Learn about possible career paths
 - Look for job opportunities
2. **Research** employers attending the event
 - Main products/services/activities
 - Press releases/company websites & blogs
3. **Prepare** your day-of questions, *lots* of questions
 - Prepare your Elevator Pitch and resume (general, specific)
 - Prepare questions for participating employers (general, specific)
 - Be prepared to talk about **why you have interest** in a particular career



"Prepare" by Photo Monkey is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)

DURING THE CAREER SHOWCASE



"Education Postcard: 'Learning is a conversation'" by Ken Whytock is licensed under [CC BY-NC 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/)

- **Relax!** This is a low-stakes opportunity to meet & learn from other people who are excited to meet & learn from you too!
- **Be friendly and attentive** – stay in the moment, focus on the conversation and people at hand
- **Ask questions & listen carefully** -- jot down a few notes if you like *but* remember it's a conversation, not a survey
- Try to focus on an enjoyable, engaging discussion for both parties that opens the door for interacting again in the future. Be sure to **get contact information** for later outreach!
- At the end, consider asking what questions you *should* have asked but didn't...

WHAT SHOULD I DO *AFTER* THE CAREER SHOWCASE?

Send thank-you messages to your new contacts!

- Refer to specifics from your conversation so they can easily remember who you are.
- Clearly communicate a next step:
 - Follow up on an application, in process or submitted
 - Informational interview
 - Referral to other contacts to learn more
- Make a plan to stay in touch going forward
 - Connect on LinkedIn & other networking platforms
 - Favorite on Handshake & other job boards

Remember:

The Career Showcase is not an end point;
this is the **beginning of professional relationships** 😊



"Desk clean up - After" by Erin Mallinson is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Career Transitioner Resume Questions to Ask

What overall impression do my resume and cover letter give?

- Do I look like my new field?
- Do I *aspire* to be in my field or am I already *in* my field?

What comes first on my resume?

- Should I highlight my degree? My experience? What's most relevant?



Should I break my experience into 2+ sections?

- E.g., “Computer Science Experience” and “Additional Professional Experience”

Can I add field-specific signal words in headers and job titles?

- Intern -> Cybersecurity Research Intern
- Student Worker -> Data Structures Teaching Assistant

Can I beef up my experience with unpaid projects, volunteering, and fieldwork in my new field?

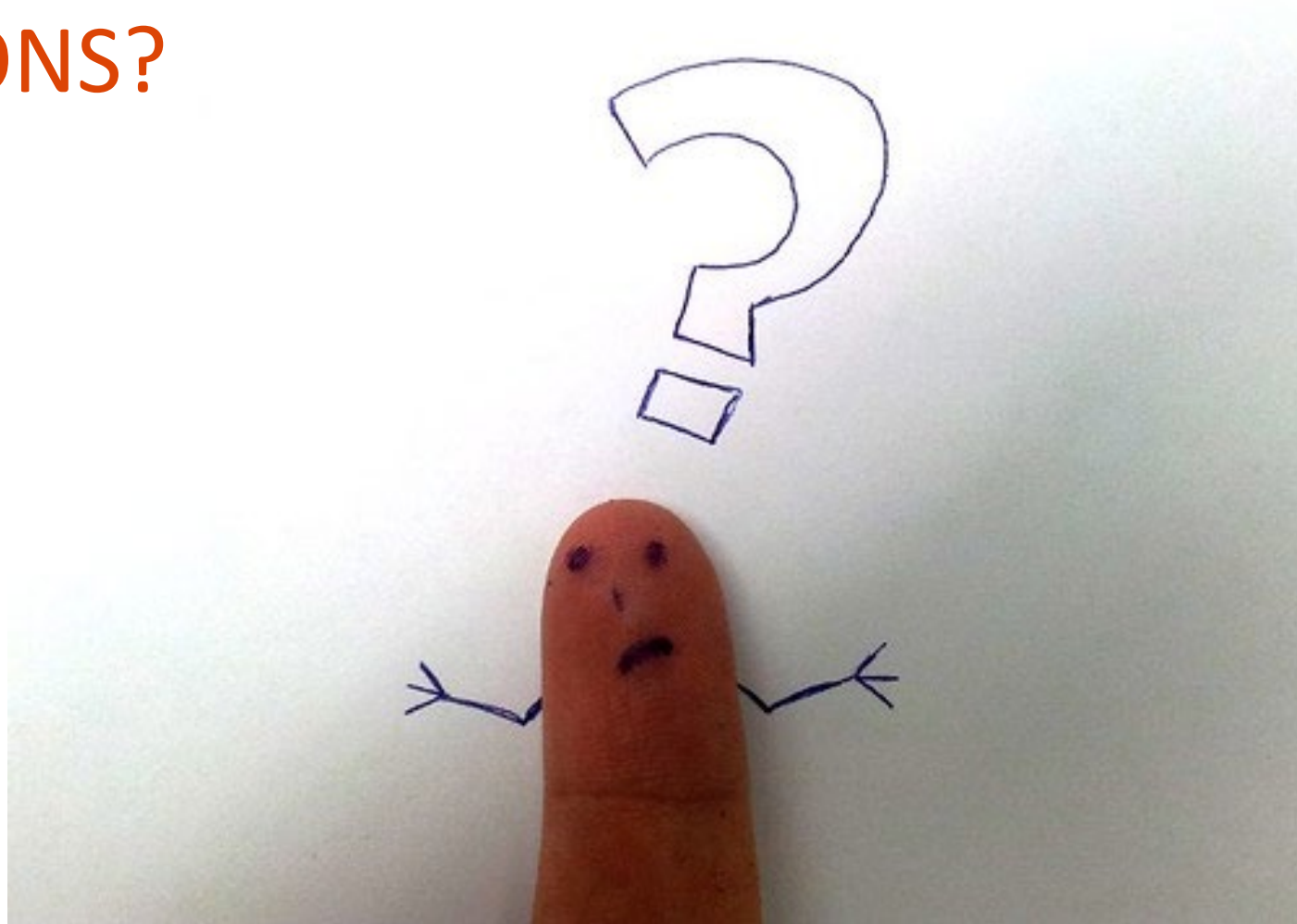
How can I network to increase my odds of breaking into a new field?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Informational Interviews](#)
- Networking in general:
<https://career.oregonstate.edu/careered/networking-and-linkedin>
- Spring 2024 workshop on Ecampus student career tips:
https://media.oregonstate.edu/media/t/1_dqyskd62
- Connecting with other OSU alumni: <https://osuconnections.org/>
- Your friendly neighborhood COE Career Center:
<https://career.oregonstate.edu/engineering>



QUESTIONS?



"Finger face with a question" by Tsahi Levent-Levi is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)