



# Virtual Speed Networking



DUE #2202011

A Tool for:  
**Student Recruitment & Retention**  
**Alumni Engagement**

**Build & Maintain Industry Partnerships**

[bit.ly/ATEAlumni](http://bit.ly/ATEAlumni)

| Student Benefits   | Programs Benefits   | Industry & Alumni Benefits   |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased sense of belonging, self efficacy &amp; science identity</li> <li>● Increased awareness of careers &amp; opportunities</li> <li>● Expanded network for their future career</li> <li>● Increased communication &amp; networking skills</li> <li>● Opportunities to obtain knowledge specific to their interests &amp; goals</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increased industry &amp; alumni engagement</li> <li>● Increased recruitment &amp; retention</li> <li>● Increased industry awareness of their program</li> <li>● Lowering the barrier for industry engagement:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1.5-2 hr time commitment</li> <li>○ Minimal/no preparation</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Opportunities for employees (at all levels) to “give back” and engage directly with community college students - build their brand &amp; image</li> <li>● Opportunities to recruit future interns &amp; employees</li> <li>● Increased opportunity to articulate their science to a broader audience</li> </ul> |

Students (N=258) agreed that speed networking:



- Influenced their confidence that they **could succeed in a biotech career**
- Increased their **confidence in talking with professionals & being comfortable in a biotech workplace**
- Gave them a **better understanding of the variety of jobs in biotech.**
- Supported them feeling that they “**fit the description of someone who does science.**”
- Provided **connections to that will be helpful in their current or future job search**



Influenced their **desire to pursue a career in bioscience-biotech.**



Influenced “**my desire to take future bioscience-biotech courses at my local community college.**”



It is always heart-opening when I see someone or hear from someone with a similar background. It is like looking at an image of me 10-15 years from now, successful and capable.

Met with receptive, knowledgeable individuals...who shared with me their knowledge and journeys. I feel more confident about my own journey and the decisions I have to make in the near future.

Volunteers (alumni/industry) agreed that speed networking:



- Was a **rewarding experience** for them (N=161)
- Increased **their interest in engaging with community college students** and alumni in the future (N=20)



Increased their **interest in considering community college students and alumni for employment** (N=20)

**Connect with us!**

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**JOHNSTON**  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE





bit.ly/SNEGuide

# Quick Guide: How to Host a Virtual Speed Networking Event

## Alumni and Industry Engagement Project



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**Goal:** Bring alumni and industry professionals together with students for 10-15 minute increments to discuss educational/career goals and experiences with the overarching goals of helping students build a network in their chosen technical field, learn more about that field, and develop confidence in talking with professionals currently working in that field.

| Speed Networking Event Timeline   |  |  |   |   |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| 4-6 Weeks Before  | Week Before  | Week of  | Day of  | Day after   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Clarify event goals, date, time &amp; size</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identify event hosts/co-hosts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Create a registration form</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Send invitations</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Update Participant Guidelines</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Update the event assessment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Practice using Zoom</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Close Registration</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Students prepare elevator pitches</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Confirm volunteers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Send calendar invites</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Send to students:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> List of volunteers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Potential questions to ask</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Event Guidelines &amp; Zoom link</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Send to volunteers: Guidelines &amp; Zoom Link</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reminders to all participants</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Set up breakout room spreadsheet</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Join Zoom 15-20 min prior to the start of the event</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Thank you email to volunteers</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remind students to send thank you emails</li> </ul> |

\*Modifiable templates/examples for each of these steps included in the guidelines: [tinyurl.com/SNEGuidelines](http://tinyurl.com/SNEGuidelines)

### Recommendations:

- Build speed networking events into class time allowing faculty to host the event
- Aim for a 2:1 ratio (students:volunteers) and at least 10 students (around 12-20 is ideal)
- Recruit volunteers through:
  - Your alumni
  - Your advisory board
  - College Career Services department for industry contacts
  - ATE Center of your discipline
  - Regional/State Trade Organizations, Chamber of Commerce
- **Connect with us** to get help & support developing your first Speed Networking Event!

#### Connect with us!

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