Networking Conversations Demystified

What Can Networking Do For You?
- Introduce you to new and different career options and perspectives
- Answer your career, professional, and grad school questions
- Give you advice from people who have been where you are now
- Help you learn about companies and what they do
- Start building your network of trusted connections and advisors
- Alert you to new opportunities

Conversation Topics
- Career journey
- Grad school decision or experience
- Advice about something you’ve been questioning
- Exploring different career paths
- Current Industry trends

Starter Questions
- Can you tell me about what you do?
- I see you’re in the X field, how did you get into that?
- Did you always know that you wanted to do X?
- I’m considering grad school options, what helped you decide if wanted to pursue a graduate degree?
- What advice do you wish you had when you were in college?
- What steps would you recommend for someone looking to get into X?

Sample Conversation
Step 1: Approach an individual or group
Step 2: Introduce yourself
  - "Hello, my name is _____. Nice to meet you"
  - “Hi, I’m ______. I’m a junior major interested in topic, nice to meet you”
Step 3: They respond
  - “Hi ______ I’m ______. Nice to meet you too”
  - “Welcome, I’m ______. Nice to meet you too, what interests you about topic”
Step 4: A conversation ensues
  - They ask questions, you ask questions, you do this everyday!

When Should I Start Networking?
- It’s never too early or too late to start!
- Exploratory networking helps your increase industry knowledge and helps define your interests
- Active job search networking helps keep you tuned in to industry trends, new prospects, and hiring activity
- Those themes will repeat themselves throughout many stages of your professional journey