

Connection 2020:

An  **NCORE**. Experience

Opening Social Mixer

The Opening Social Mixer is all about networking! Meet fellow attendees and truly CONNECT!

You will enter a Zoom meeting where you will be given a few basic instructions and then placed into a breakout room to meet new people or catch up with people you have met before. Our plan is to keep each breakout room to six or fewer people so you can have a chance to get to know one another. You'll have the option to leave that room and join another one as frequently as you'd like. Here are a few tips to assist you in maximizing the networking opportunity.

Virtual Networking Tips

- **Introduce:** Plan ahead the two or three sentences you will use to introduce yourself and your goals for the networking opportunity. You can even type them out and read them each time you switch to a new “breakout room.”
- **Question:** Be prepared with one or two open-ended questions to get the conversation started. Perhaps you want to get others thoughts on an interesting point a presenter made earlier in the day. Maybe you want to know how others are addressing equity and social distancing issues on their campuses. Or maybe you just want to get new ideas for a Zoom virtual background. Regardless, don't be afraid to jump in and start the conversation right away with what intrigues you.
- **Move Around:** Don't be afraid to leave the breakout room you are in so you can join a new one.
- **Stick Around:** Don't be afraid to stay in the same breakout room if you're having an interesting conversation.
- **Exchange Info:** If you meet someone that you'd like to connect with in the future, exchange contact information. Consider having your LinkedIn link, Twitter handle, or email address where you can copy and paste it into the chat quickly for those who want to follow-up after the event.

Icebreaker Questions modified from SpeedNetworking.com

<https://www.speednetworking.com/post/8-networking-icebreaker-questions-for-your-next-event>

Here are some open-ended networking icebreaker questions to help kick-off conversations.

1. What brings you here?

Effective networking is all about giving, not getting. Relationships are built on trust, so understanding why someone attends an event is an important part of learning how you—or someone you know—might be able to help them. Learn their objectives and let the conversation flow from there.

2. How long have you been coming to NCORE?

Sometimes, less is more. This simple, easy-to-answer question can help people feel more comfortable and give them a break from repeating their perfectly rehearsed—but probably overused—elevator pitch. It helps you get to know them a little better and gives you a hint about how long they've been interested, involved, or working within the industry.

3. What are some of your favorite projects you're working on right now?

People like to talk about things they're passionate about. And asking them about their favorite projects helps you get to know them better personally and professionally because you're learning about their interests *and* their experience. And guess what? You might just find you have something in common.

4. What are some challenges you're facing right now?

As much as we'd all like to pretend like things are going perfectly, the world is a challenging place and there's always room to do better. This relatively vague question opens the door for people to talk about challenges their company is facing, challenges they're facing, or anything in between. Take note of the things they talk about and think about how you can be of help, now or in the future. Have you experienced something similar? Do you know of any solutions? Do you know someone who does?

5. Do you know anyone else here?

This is a great question to get a feel for how comfortable the other person is. If they have a lot of coworkers or friends at the event, they're probably not as nervous as people who are there by themselves. If they do know other people, ask them to introduce you after you've had a chance to chat. If they don't, they'll be glad you approached them!

6. What do you do?

It's tried, tested, simple, and straightforward. People expect this question so it's a safe bet to start a conversation. In just a few seconds you'll have an understanding of their position and company. Follow it up with questions about how long they've been there and what brought them to the job. Hearing about a person's journey is always interesting and can give you a better idea of their background.

7. What do you like to do when you're not working or networking?

In case you don't know by now, networking is about more than selling yourself or securing your next job. In order to build real business relationships, you really have to take the time to get to know someone, even if it isn't always work-related.

8. How's it going?

If networking to you feels forced, start with something simple and conversational. After all, you should always treat people like people, not a potential resource. Ask about their day, if they've tried the appetizers, and if they've attended an event like this before. Not every conversation has to start with a set purpose. This is a social event after all.

9. What has surprised you the most about navigating this pandemic?

We know this disruption in our routines has had many unpleasant and challenging circumstances. But, giving people space to talk about good things may be a backdoor way to share tips and tricks with others that may prove useful.

Accessibility

Enabling Closed Captioning on Zoom

All Connection 2020 sessions will include real-time captions. To enable Closed Captioning on Zoom:

1. Click the Settings tab in the navigation panel.
2. Click the Meeting tab.
3. Verify that **Closed Caption** is **enabled**.
4. If the setting is disabled, click the toggle to **enable** it. If a verification dialog displays, click Turn On to verify the change.

Sign Language Interpretation

Some sessions will have sign language. In these sessions, the interpreter will be shown in a large video feed.

Break Out Sessions

Some sessions will require break out rooms for further discussion and session exercises.

Zoom only allows one captioner for every presentation. If you require Closed Captioning, please stay in or return to the main room so the Session Host can ensure you are in the correct room with the captioner.

Accessibility Information, Questions, and Concerns (Before CXN 2020)

For complete details regarding Connection 2020 accessibility, go to:

<https://ncore.ou.edu/en/webinar-series/webinar-accessibility/>.

Send questions or concerns regarding Connection 2020 accessibility to Josephine Stocks, Accessibility Coordinator (jstocks@ou.edu).

Accessibility Information, Questions, and Concerns (During CXN 2020)

Connection 2020 accessibility issues can be reported two ways:

1. Session Chat Box

- Click or tap **Chat**.
- A chat window will appear on the right if you are not in full screen or it will appear in a window you can move around the screen if you are in full screen.
- Select the “Host” from the **To** drop down.
- Type your message and press **Enter** to send it.
- A notification will appear at the bottom of your screen when you receive a chat message.

2. Connection 2020 Accessibility Slack channel:

<https://swchrs.slack.com/archives/C0153MS72QJ>

- This channel will be monitored during all Connection 2020 sessions. Staff and service providers will be included in all relevant communication for fast and efficient troubleshooting.

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