

NetWerx: Student & Alumni Connections



UConn
WERTH INSTITUTE

About

The Werth Institute NetWerx student and alumni connections initiative matches students with UConn alumni over video conferencing technology. The goal is to expand students' networks by connecting them with experienced alumni, so the student may begin to enhance their entrepreneurial mindset and imagine their personal pathway to leadership. NetWerx is open to all students, in all majors who are looking to expand their personal network and connect with people who are passionate about entrepreneurship. This community welcomes all students, regardless if they would like to start their own company. Over time, we believe these initial conversations will lead to greater levels of confidence, networking and professional development opportunities beyond the first alumni match.

Where

Meetings take place via video conference technology (Zoom, WebX, Google Hangouts)

Time Commitment

Four, 30 minute conversations with alum over a period of 8 weeks.

Match Initiation

The Werth Institute matches students monthly based on the available pool of volunteer mentors. Most mentors are UConn alum that have graduated less than 10 years ago. Aside from mentor availability, we try to identify common interests between the mentor and student based off of the written applications of the mentor and student. For example, some students and mentors might share the same major or industry interest. Like any new relationship, sometimes it takes a little while to build the relationship. We ask all participants to come with an open mind for connecting with unique individuals. If for some reason the match expectations do not go as planned, we welcome participants to reach out to the program staff as soon as possible.

Benefits

NETWORKING:

Many alum have knowledge about the workplace, internships or leads to other individuals willing to support UConn students.

INCREASE SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC CONFIDENCE:

Wondering how to approach a professor, write a cover letter or have a difficult conversation with a teammate? These conversations are the perfect place to work through these types of questions.

OUTSIDE PERSPECTIVE:

Talking to someone that doesn't know every detail of your life may help you objectively vet or reimagine ideas. Many alum have been in your shoes and are excited to lend advice to support and cheer you on!

STRATEGIES:

Identify goals and establish a sense of direction in regards to the next stage of your university or professional career.



FAQs

Who should apply?

This mentorship opportunity is open to all students and all majors who are curious about entrepreneurship and would like to gain perspective from an alum who is willing to share some of their work experience and guide you on your personal pathway to leadership.

How do you match the students and alumni?

Students and Alumni both complete a similar Match Form that asks questions related to academics, leadership, workplace industry, campus involvement and interests. The Werth Institute carefully considers each student application and the overall mentor/alum pool that is available. With that said, when the Match Form Questions are completed with full details, it helps with the process!

I completed my application, now what?

The Werth Institute will review your application and start looking for a mentor to assign you. We match students year round with mentors and some months there may be a greater demand for mentors than others. Please be patient and continue to check your email as we will make the first introduction to your mentor via email. If for some reason you have not been matched within 30 days of completing your application, please reach out to our staff.

I received an e-mail from the Werth Staff introducing me to my mentor, what do I do now?

Reach out to the mentor and suggest a meeting time. In the initial email sent by The Werth Staff you will see a few times suggested. Don't wait for the mentor to reach out to you, go ahead and initiate the conversation to schedule the first meeting. In addition, please include the Werth Staff until the first meeting is set.

What is the Agreement Form and what do I do with it?

The Agreement Form is a tool to help manage program expectations, plan out meetings and guide conversations. Each agreement form is unique to the student and alum. Please complete the document via the Google Document during the first session of your meeting. Once you and your mentor complete this form together, you no longer need to include Werth Staff in conversations.

My mentor and I need more than 4 sessions, what do I do?

That is great news! The Werth Institute is happy to help support additional sessions, please let us know if you and your mentor would like us to help facilitate another session.

My first session is finished, am I able to work with more than one alum?

Of course, we are happy to match students beyond the initial match. We do ask students to complete the Match Form again to help us identify another connection. The process will look much similar. In times of stronger demand of mentors and mentor availability pool, there may be a time when we pair on a monthly basis. Be sure to contact the Werth Institute Staff if you have any questions.

I know some great mentors already, can I refer them to become mentors?

Absolutely! Please send recommendations!



I think mentoring the future of UConn is incredibly rewarding for all involved -- as a UConn Alum myself, I get to not only guide a fellow husky based on what I learned during my time there, but also see and learn from our university's current innovators.

- Bianca D'Agostino '18

