



Forté: Expanding my Network

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Upon entering Cornell University I had so many questions, but one was at the top of my mind: who do I want to be when I grow up, what am I passionate about, and how can I find that out? I believed the best way to learn was from upperclassmen that had supposedly “figured it out”; I knew what I was looking for, a student organization that was passionate about mentorship.

Freshman Fall, during clubfest, I scoured the pages of campus groups. I immediately resonated with Forte and their mission to empower women to pursue their diverse interests and build both personal and professional relationships. What also stood out to me was the excitement and welcoming engagement from older members. I admired their accomplishments and could see myself being friends with them! Over the past four years this community has brought me so much joy and served as a guiding force in my exploration of career paths.

My biggest takeaway from the new member education program was how to network and the value of networking for self discovery. In connecting with my newly acquired mentors, I explored topics including how to make the most out of my experience at Cornell, find my people, and identify my niche. Their advice was helpful, but one piece of advice truly stuck– Be extroverted and always reach out when inspired.

At the onset of my career journey I developed my social media presence on LinkedIn and connected with professionals that worked in HR, Finance, Consulting across different industries. I discovered there are a wide variety of opportunities where individuals hold roles with different responsibilities. I took note of conversations and topics that made me smile, attempting to find my passion.

Forming professional connections can be daunting as a college student. I recommend channeling genuine curiosity in conversations because it can lead to secondary connections enabling greater exposure on a subject. Being authentic about my passions with others was a catalyst to identifying professional mentors.

In Spring of 2023 I shifted eboard roles because I believed in the impact of guest speakers. In this role I reached out to my network and the Forté alumni to have them speak with the G-body. Bridging networks and bringing people together was exciting.

Everyone’s paths and experiences are different therefore do not compare your career journey to others. That being said, if you need help finding a direction, turn to a Forté member and expand your network!