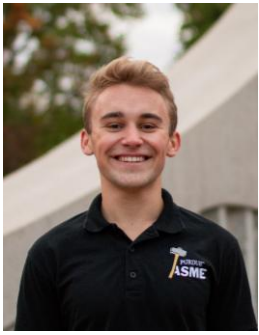


Networking & Making the Most of Your Internship

ASME Purdue's Guide to Getting (and Keeping) Your Dream Job

4/21/2026





Bryce Tucker

Junior in AAE

Professional Experience:



Launch Engineering Intern
Falcon 9 | Summer '26



Manufacturing Engineering Intern
New Glenn | Summer '25



Project Engineering Intern
Engine Control Systems | Summer '24

Campus Involvement:



External Vice President
Purdue ASME



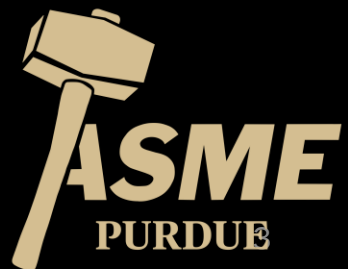
Test Cell Lead Engineer
Purdue Space Program - Liquids



Disclaimer!

I'm not perfect at networking! Nobody is. This slideshow is a collection of my thoughts on what has worked for me.

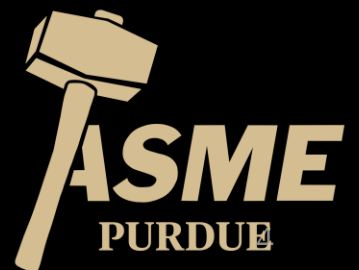
There's always room to learn and improve. If you have any thoughts, I'd love to hear them!



Networking: The Basics

How to make, maintain, and use connections

4/21/26



Your Brand

Selling yourself to your interviewer

- Coincides with **your image**
 - Think of companies you recognize easily - everything is cohesive
- Your goal: **determine the key characteristics that define you**
 - **Then weave that into all of your interview responses**
- How do you want others to perceive you?
- What **sets you apart** from everyone else?
 - Culmination of skills, experiences, and personality
- What do you offer?
- What are your goals and interests?



“Networking”

The most buzz-wordy professional development term I’ve ever heard

- **What is networking? And why is it important?**
- My definition: Networking is **building a group of people** that **support you professionally** (or personally) and that can help you advance and develop within your career!
- Networking is nothing more complicated than **building relationships** with the people you meet and work with
- Why it’s important:
 - Mentorship and learning
 - Career opportunities
 - Diversity of perspectives and experiences
- **I have never gotten a job purely by applying online.**
- Three steps: form connections, stay in touch, don’t be scared to ask for favors



What people think of when they picture networking: that’s one way to do it...

So, how do you build your network?

Forming professional relationships

- **TALK TO PEOPLE**

- You never know who you will meet
 - Go to events, and **introduce yourself**
 - Ask people about themselves, **learn their story**
 - **Say yes to things**
- Get yourself in the **right room**
 - Join groups that align with your interests and work with the companies/people you want to meet
 - If I want to work in finance, joining the rocket club probably won't get me in the right room
 - Often, your best professional relationships are **those you've worked personally with**
 - Your internship mentor, your boss, your ASME teammate, a senior member of your club
 - **Your network is a two-way street**: often, they want to meet you as much as you want to meet them!
 - This applies even if they are more senior than you: hiring managers **want to hire qualified people** and senior leaders in industry want to **develop the next generation workforce** and share their experiences



One Method: the Coffee Chat

Sitting down with someone and getting to know them

- If you recently connected with someone (in person, via LinkedIn, or via a mutual contact), asking for **30 minutes of their time** is a great way to learn about their experiences and get advice
- Your goal isn't to get a referral or a job, but to **learn and build a relationship with that person**
- Reach out:
 - Give background about how you got their contact if necessary
 - Introduce yourself, a bit about your background, and why you're interested in them
 - Explain what you're looking for
 - If they agree, send them a calendar invite for a quick chat
- Go in with 5-7 questions about them and their experiences
 - But **follow the flow of conversation!**
 - Ask about their **decisions and lessons**, not just their resume
- Thank them for their time and ask if there's anyone else you should reach out to
- Send a thank-you email mentioning something from the conversation you found impactful, and update them a few months later on what you've been up to/result of the things you talked about

An Example

Reaching out to set up a call

- Quick, concise, respectful of their time
- Establishes a specific goal
- Can be specific advice or just learning from their experiences/stories
- With every interaction, think about: what's the point of the conversation, and what do you want them to walk away thinking about you?
 - Building your brand!

From: [REDACTED]
Date: September 25, 2025 at 9:39:26 AM EDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Time to Connect

Hi [REDACTED],

It's great to meet you through [REDACTED]'s introduction. I'd love to find a time to connect in the next few weeks.

My availability is pretty scattered between my classes, but Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays generally work well for me. If you're available, please let me know a few times that work well for you and I'll make it work on my side.

Best,
[REDACTED]
Purdue Industrial Engineering

From: [REDACTED]
Date: August 19, 2025 at 9:27:33 AM EDT
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Time to Connect - Internship Decision

Hi [REDACTED],

I hope you're doing well. [REDACTED], passed along your contact information and mentioned your experience in both consulting and private equity. I'm a junior at Purdue deciding between offers from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for my internship next summer, and I'd really appreciate the chance to hear your perspective as I make this decision.

Would you be open to a quick call in the next few days?

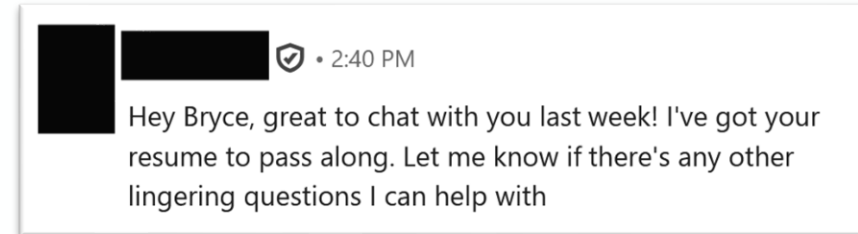
Best,
[REDACTED]



How to stay in touch...

Maintaining professional relationships

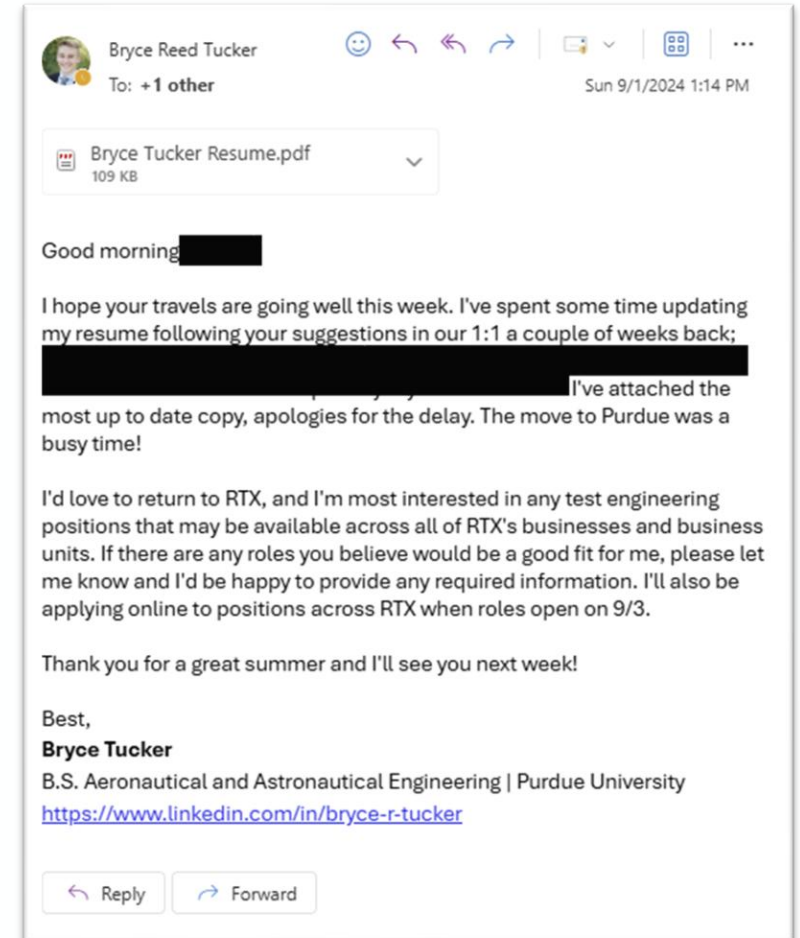
- If you met someone briefly, get their contact info and **follow up after the fact** (email, LinkedIn)
 - Eg. it was great meeting you, something specific about your conversation, resume attached
 - Sometimes people will reach out to you!
- If it's a more long-term relationship/mentorship, **keep them updated with what you're up to!**
 - Career updates, project updates from Purdue, etc.
- If they are knowledgeable about a problem you're facing, **ask for their advice**
- **Follow up every now and then (every 3-6 months)**
 - If they give you advice or input: update them with the outcome and what you did



Using professional relationships, the right way

Asking for favors

- Your goal is **NOT to take advantage of your friends and professional connections**. But it's ok to ask favors!
- Understand that **you're asking someone to stick their neck out** and vouch for you
- Be **clear about what you're looking for**, and only ask for something if you're sure you want it
 - Don't ask for a favor then turn down an offer. Not a great look.
- Be **polite and concise**
- **Be excited about what you do!!**



LinkedIn Basics

Some very brief suggestions

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LinkedIn Fundamentals

How to have an effective and clean LinkedIn

- Your LinkedIn should serve as an **extension of your resume** and a pipeline for you to **maintain your network and reach out to people** for professional purposes
- People **do actually look at LinkedIn!** So keep it up to date
- Your LinkedIn should have **more information than your resume**, but keep it relevant and not too long
- **Connect with the people that you meet**
 - Potentially avoid accepting every single connection request – 500+ connections is cool, but **if you don't actually know any of them** they probably won't do you much good
- Use LinkedIn to find specific people in the roles/industry that you're interested in, and shoot them a quick message
 - Coffee chat

Do's and Don'ts

Using LinkedIn the right way

- Do:
 - **Post** about your internships, project updates
 - Keep your LinkedIn **up to date**
 - Put ASME / other **design teams on your LinkedIn**
 - **Vouch for yourself**
- Don't:
 - **Fabricate information** or misrepresent yourself
 - Post extremely **often** or in **long** messages
 - **Spam people** or copy/paste messages to reach out repeatedly
 - Use any **unprofessional language**



Maybe not a great idea...

Basic Formatting and Post Ideas

It's not an exact science

- Put your major and any titles (internship/clubs) in your by-line
- Have a **good, clear picture** of yourself (mine isn't great)
- I like having a **2-3 sentence summary** of different roles instead of bullets
- Add your **certifications/scholarships/awards!**
- For posts:
 - Be excited but **professional and humble**
 - **Thank** the people that helped you get the job
 - Don't post if there's **any chance you're going to take a different job**
 - **Repost cool stuff!**
 - I like posting a **post-internship update** talking about what I worked on



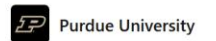
Maxwell Trowbridge  He/Him · 1st

Purdue ASME President | Fluid Power Research Assistant | Senior Mechanical Engineering Student

United States · [Contact info](#)

500+ connections

 Ashwin, Jeet and 174 other mutual connections



Bryce Tucker  · You

Incoming @ SpaceX | Honors Aerospace Engineering Student at Pur...

1yr · Edited · 

I'm very excited to announce that I recently accepted an offer to join [Blue Origin](#) for this summer as a Manufacturing Engineering Intern at Cape Canaveral, FL!

It's an honor to be joining a team that is pushing the boundaries of what is possible every day. Huge thanks to all who helped throughout the interview process and to those who have supported me every step of the way.



How to Make the Most of Your Internship

Getting that return offer...

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How to succeed in a new role

You just got here!

- When you first start a new job, **it'll always be overwhelming**
- As you get up and running, **learn where you can go to** get your questions answered
 - Some companies provide a mentor in addition to your manager
 - Find people you can talk to in different areas of expertise – don't always bother the same person
- **Ask clarifying questions!**
- **Carry around a notebook. Always.**
 - Write down expectations, notes about something you're unsure about, and **NAMES**
- **Internships are short.** Get up to speed as fast as possible and use your resources!
- Make an acronym dictionary. There's a lot of them in engineering.
- Reach out to people in the areas you're interested in – set up coffee chats to learn about them and build relationships
 - Even the most senior ranking people *usually* have 30 minutes to speak with you about their experiences



Keeping Track of Everything

What did you do every day?

- **Keep a record** of what you work on every day
 - And any **learning experiences/stories** – these become the STAR interview questions we talked about in behavioral interviews
- At the end of the week, **pull out the most important/impactful things that you did** and write them down
- If you don't see your manager very often, send an update email every 1-2 weeks keeping them up-to-date on what you've been doing
 - Ex. "Good afternoon! I wanted to reach out to provide a few quick updates on the projects I've been working on this week. I was able to get A, B, C finalized and compiled that into a presentation (attached) that gives a quick overview. I also reached out to Jerry and got D and E problem resolved..."

Having a Successful Internship

Being effective and productive in the 12 weeks you've got

- **Be the person that people know they can go to that gets things done.**
- Be resourceful, ask clarifying questions, and be excited to be there
- At times, you may have nothing to do. It will be tempting to scroll reels at your desk. **Don't do it.**
 - **Seek out projects** and have a noticeable impact if you have extra time! No project is below you
 - **People will notice** when you're the person that's always looking for ways to help
- **Know your customer**
 - What does your boss/mentor/customer want? When?
 - **Ask clarifying questions** to understand what they're really looking for
 - You could make the most amazing, polished project in the entire world, but if it doesn't accomplish their goal **it won't be worth anything**
- **Be transparent about what you're interested in** so that you can cater your projects to do things you want to do

Thank You!

Questions? brycertucker@gmail.com

