**BOBCAT MENTORSHIP NETWORK**

**Career & Leadership Development Center**

**Lesson Topic**: Incorporating the Bobcat Mentorship Network into Your Curriculum

**Facilitation Time**: Students will engage with the Bobcat Mentorship Network (BMN) through activities in or out of class time, depending on goals for the course. In class, up to 30-60 minutes can be spent completing activities on BMN and reflecting on experiences. Multiple options are provided in the lesson to tailor BMN usage to your students’ needs.

**Instructor Preparation**: Visit the CLDC’s [website](https://www.ohio.edu/student-affairs/career-and-leadership) to learn more about our services and programs. If you would like to learn more about how you could use the BMN and other CLDC tools to best fit your instructional goals, fill out our [Faculty Partner Form](https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2lufz4vs6V91cDX) to initiate formal involvement with the CLDC in your class.

**Student Preparation**: Bring a laptop, tablet, or smartphone to class if activities will be conducted in class.

**Lesson Plan Options**: In addition to the main lesson plan, two additional activity options are included at the end of the lesson. You can add one or more of these items to enhance students’ preparation for successful networking and mentoring activities. The lesson and PowerPoint can be edited to include one or both activities earlier in the lesson, based on your students’ needs.

1. Use the Bobcat Mentorship Network PowerPoint (available on CLDC website) to facilitate discussion and the activities. The PowerPoint also features the notes included below to guide the lesson
2. Introduce the Bobcat Mentorship Network in your class.
	1. Purpose: This is a great opportunity for students to explore career areas and to learn from professionals in a variety of industries. Students will practice networking and communicating professionally using the Bobcat Mentorship Network tool.
	2. Goals: Create a profile on the BMN. Use BMN to research industries and alumni career paths. Reflect on experience following use of BMN. Identify a short-term goal for personal BMN use to expand networking activity.
3. Discuss the BMN: The Bobcat Mentorship Network is a new and easy-to-use platform where alumni, students, faculty, and staff can engage in mentorship, networking, and professional development opportunities. Whether you’re looking for a “flash” mentoring opportunity or something more in-depth and long-term, you can find it through the Bobcat Mentorship Network. This inclusive and supportive environment is a place for students to seek guidance; for alumni, faculty, and staff to provide guidance and coach students in their professional development; and for all members to learn from and inspire one another in a professional setting.
4. Explore the purpose of seeking mentoring and networking
	1. What experiences do you have participating in mentorship and/or networking?
5. What is the difference between mentoring and networking?
6. Provide time for students to create a profile in the Bobcat Mentorship Network
	1. Review the “[Getting Started Infographic](https://support.peoplegrove.com/hc/en-us/articles/360001278711-Getting-Started-for-Students-and-Mentees#create_your_account)” from BMN on the slide
	2. Resources for students needing additional support: <https://support.peoplegrove.com/hc/en-us/articles/115002174092-My-Profile>
	3. Additional resources for FAQs about the platform: <https://support.peoplegrove.com/hc/en-us/categories/115000232772-Students-and-Professionals>
	4. Select student/mentee as your user type
7. Explore the BMN site
	1. Explore the network
	2. Groups – industry and affinity
	3. Resources
8. Consider connecting with someone
	1. Identify someone working at a company of interest
	2. Determine a list of others from your academic area
	3. Reference the on-screen infographic for tips to connect with others
9. End of class reflection
	1. Use the questions below to prompt student reflection about their BMN experiences. These questions can be posed in class, in a written assignment, or in an online discussion board.
		1. What did you observe about BMN?
		2. How did you feel while you were exploring BMN?
		3. What was your favorite thing you learned?
		4. What was your least favorite thing you learned?
		5. What surprised you about the activity?
		6. How did this activity impact your career interests?
		7. Who was most interesting to you?
		8. What is one thing you learned from this experience?
		9. What do you wish you would have known before using BMN?
		10. What will you do differently before using BMN again?
		11. What will you do next on BMN?
		12. How do you hope to connect with OHIO after you graduate?
10. Prior to concluding class, remind students of additional support available through the CLDC
	1. Who has worked with a CLDC coach before?
		1. CLDC coaches can help with identifying career paths of interest, finding a job or internship, applying for graduate school and many other career and leadership topics
		2. Schedule a 30-minute coaching appointment through Handshake
11. Additional activity option 1: Share a relevant resource in an Industry Discussion Board (in or out of class)
	1. Review professional media outlets (examples: Harvard Business Review, Fast Company) and select one article related to your professional interests
	2. Post the article to your selected group and share your thoughts about the piece. Why is this interesting and relevant to this group? What questions or perspectives do you have for other group members related to the topic?
	3. Email your instructor a link to the article you shared in the group, identify the group you chose to join, and share your future plans for using the Bobcat Mentorship Network
12. Additional in-class activity 2: Complete a flash mentoring experience (out of class)
	1. One-time, 30-minute conversation with a mentor
	2. Requires advanced planning
	3. Opportunity to learn about a professional’s experience in an area of interest
	4. Practice using your networking skills
	5. Write a reflection about the experience
		1. What did you learn from the person you spoke with?
		2. What was the most interesting part of your conversation?
		3. Is this something you see yourself doing again? Why or why not?
		4. What else do you need to do to prepare for your future career?