



AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE ECONOMICS PROFESSION Top 10 List

Developing and Maintaining Networks

- 1. Volunteer to organize a session at a regional (or national) meeting.** The regional associations in particular welcome full sessions as well as individual submissions. Ask top people in your field if they have an interest in presenting a paper or have anyone who might have such a paper.
- 2. Volunteer to participate as a discussant in sessions on your topics of interest.** If you know someone who is organizing a session, email them and express your interest in participating. For example, even if you don't have a paper to submit, you could contact the organizers of the CSWEP sessions to offer your services as a discussant.
- 3. Accept as many requests for referee reports and proposal reviews that you can.** Turn them in on time. If you absolutely cannot do it, pass along one or two names of appropriate substitutes.
- 4. Volunteer to do a book review for a relevant major journal.** You could contact the book review editor and get them your vita so they know where you are and what you have been doing. Have a specific book in mind to review and explain why you think you could provide a good review of the book. (For example, you are teaching the upper level course in finance and this new book has made substantial revisions to the normal finance book content and you would like to write a good review of this new approach).
- 5. Contact people who have recently published papers of interest to you.** Write to them if you have some complementary data or results or just to tell them you enjoyed the article and are working in the field. It is best if you send something you have done so they understand the level at which you are working.
- 6. Connect with the people in your field and especially those upon whose work you have built.** Once your paper is ready for submission, send a copy to the eminent people in your field. If you use data from someone else or have depended heavily on someone else's work, write to them and thank them for their assistance.



7. **Invite at least one person to your institution to give a talk.** If your department organizes a seminar series, offer to provide a speaker in your field from outside the institution for one of the sessions. If this speaker could be involved in some mentoring activity (many are happy to talk with others who need some professional advice) there is financial support available through the Haworth Mentoring Fund for the speaker's expenses. See the CSWEP website for more details (<http://www.cswep.org/mentoring/MentoringFund.htm>).
8. **Give a paper at another institution.** Ask your friends from graduate school to invite you to their institution to give a talk on your paper. Then offer to reciprocate. If it seems appropriate, gather some of your friends from graduate school and consider hosting a one day conference on common topics of interest. The friends could present papers (along with your paper) and you could invite an eminent scholar (or two) to be the keynote speaker and participate in the discussions on the papers.
9. **Go to at least two conferences a year.** Even if you have to use some of your own funds, going to meetings is the best way to showcase your work and meet people. Consider attending specialized meetings. This is a great way to get to know people in your sub-field.
10. **One you are there, use the conferences as a way to get to know people.** Go to cocktail parties and other receptions. The CSWEP receptions are a particularly friendly place to start. Talk to the people in your sessions. Read their papers, even if you are not the formal discussant, and give them comments at the end of the session. Go to the sessions of the people you contacted (see Tips #5 and 6). Remember to introduce yourself and have a useful and professional comment to make.

For a longer article on networking advice, see Joyce Jacobsen, "An Overview of Networking Strategies." *CSWEP Newsletter* Spring/Summer 2004, pp. 6-8. Some of the tips listed above first appeared in that article.

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