

Career Connections Program Evaluation

The Evaluation Division in the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), in coordination with the Office of Alumni Affairs, is currently undertaking an evaluation of the Career Connections program. The purpose of this evaluation is to improve the professional development programming for U.S. citizen alumni of government sponsored exchange programs. This is an opportunity for you to share your experiences and let ECA know what you are looking for from professional development opportunities.

The survey contains 36 questions and should take 20 minutes (average) to complete. You do not have to have participated in a Career Connections seminar to take this survey.

Please note that your participation in this survey is voluntary, and you are free to end the survey at any time. By clicking the "Consent and enter survey" button below, you are consenting to the following terms:

- Your participation in this evaluation is voluntary. We do not anticipate that participating in this evaluation will result in any risks or direct benefit to you. However, your inputs may lead to recommendations that benefit the Career Connections Program—and, thereby, the general public. You may skip any questions you are not comfortable answering.
- The information that you provide in the survey will be used to write a report. This report will be shared with the U.S. Department of State and other stakeholders for comment and will eventually be made public. Any responses you provide may be reported in the final report as part of the anonymized aggregated quantitative analysis or the qualitative analysis from open-ended responses, with all personal identifying information removed.
- The U.S. government will take reasonable measures to protect privacy data, personally identifiable information, and other sensitive data obtained from the survey. Responses to questions may be reported by demographic category (i.e., field of study, employment status), country, or cohort year. The only identifying information used will be the demographic information collected in the beginning of the survey.
- As this evaluation requires us to speak with a broad range of program alumni, we may ask you to share contact information for the connections that you mention, in the cases where we do not already have updated or valid contact information for these parties. As with all other questions, you may skip or decline to answer any questions you are not comfortable answering. Updated contact information may be shared with the U.S. Department of State upon completion of this survey.
- The data you provide may be reanalyzed at a later date for a follow-up study or other purpose approved by the U.S. Department of State. The data may be made available to third parties as required by law.
- You may withdraw your consent at any time by contacting ECAEvaluation@state.gov.

We ask that you complete this survey by [DEADLINE].

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Mary Ann Aabye at AabyeMA@state.gov. If you have any questions about the Career Connections program, please contact Paul Garr at GarrPS@state.gov.

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

By clicking the button to begin the survey below, you are giving your consent to participate in this evaluation. If you do not wish to participate, please click the exit survey link below.

Consent and enter survey

Decline and end survey now



OMB Control Number: 1405-XXXX
Burden Estimate: 20 minutes
Expiration Date: XX-XX-XXXX

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including time required for searching existing data sources, gathering the necessary documentation, providing the information and/or documents required, and reviewing the final collection. You do not have to supply this information unless this collection displays a currently valid OMB control number. If you have comments on the accuracy of this burden estimate and/or recommendations for reducing it, please send them to: ecaevaluation@state.gov

Career Connections Program Evaluation

Home State:

Age:

Which program are you an alumni off?

Please check the option that best describes your gender:

Male

Female

Non-binary

I do not wish to respond



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Career Connections Program Evaluation

Have you participated in a Career Connections seminar?

Yes

No

→

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Career Connections Program Evaluation

Did you attend an **in-person** Career Connections seminar?

Yes

No

→

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Career Connections Program Evaluation

Which Career Connections seminar did you attend? *Please select all that apply.*

Raleigh, NC (February 2019)

Denver, CO (April 2019)

Los Angeles, CA (July 2019)

New York, NY (October 2019)

Austin, TX (January 2020)

Have you attended or viewed any of the **virtual** Career Connection seminars?

Yes

No



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Career Connections Program Evaluation

How would you compare your in-person and virtual Career Connections experiences?

- My in-person experience was better
- My virtual experience was better
- My experiences were the about the same

How did you hear about the Career Connections seminar?

- Was mentioned in my ECA program
- Another alumni told me about the Career Connections program
- Was mentioned at an official event I attended (at an Embassy overseas, speech by a State Department official, etc.)
- LinkedIn
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Email
- Website
- Other

What was your professional status when you participated in Career Connections?

- Employed
- Seeking Employment
- Studying
- Both working and Studying
- Other

Since participating in Career Connections (*select all that apply*):

- I have remained in the same job
- I have found new employment
- I have continued in the same university program (BA, MA, PhD, etc.)
- I have started a new university program (BA, MA, PhD, etc.)
- Other



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Career Connections Program Evaluation

In which sector is your job?

For-profit

Non-profit

Government

University

Other

How have you been able to use your Career Connections seminar? *Select all that apply.*

I have not been able to use my Career Connections experience

In searching and applying for a new job

In searching and applying for an internship or fellowship

In applying for graduate school

Networking

Finding a mentor

Other



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Career Connections Program Evaluation

Why have you not been able to use your Career Connections seminar?

Have you utilized these components of your Career Connections seminar?

	Yes	No
Resume-Building	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developing a Personal Brand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job Search Skills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pathways to Careers in the U.S. Government	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Networking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developing an Online Presence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Job Interviewing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



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Career Connections Program Evaluation

Why have you not been able to utilize information from the **Resume-Building** session? *Select all that apply.*

Session was not part of my Career Connections seminar

Session did not provide useful information

The speaker/expert was not engaging

I have been too busy

I am not currently job searching

I have not had an opportunity to put it to use yet

Other

Why have you not been able to utilize information from the **Developing a Personal Brand** session? *Select all that apply.*

Session was not part of my Career Connections seminar

Session did not provide useful information

The speaker/expert was not engaging

I have been too busy

I am not currently job searching

I have not had an opportunity to put it to use yet

Other

Why have you not been able to utilize information from the **Job Search Skills** session? *Select all that apply.*

Session was not part of my Career Connections seminar

Session did not provide useful information

The speaker/expert was not engaging

I have been too busy

I am not currently job searching

I have not had an opportunity to put it to use yet

Other

Why have you not been able to utilize information from the **Pathways to Careers in the U.S. Government** session? *Select all that apply.*

Session was not part of my Career Connections seminar

Session did not provide useful information

The speaker/expert was not engaging

I have been too busy

I am not currently job searching

I have not had an opportunity to put it to use yet

Other

Why have you not been able to utilize information from the **Networking** sessions?

Select all that apply.

Session was not part of my Career Connections seminar

Session did not provide useful information

The speaker/expert was not engaging

I have been too busy

I am not currently job searching

I have not had an opportunity to put it to use yet

Other

Why have you not been able to utilize information from the **Developing an Online Presence** session? Select all that apply.

Session was not part of my Career Connections seminar

Session did not provide useful information

The speaker/expert was not engaging

I have been too busy

I am not currently job searching

I have not had an opportunity to put it to use yet

Other

Why have you not been able to utilize information from the **Job Interviewing** session?

Select all that apply.

Session was not part of my Career Connections seminar

Session did not provide useful information

The speaker/expert was not engaging

I have been too busy

I am not currently job searching

I have not had an opportunity to put it to use yet

Other



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What other kinds of professional development activities have you participated in?

Select all that apply.

- Training provided by my employer
- Workshops provided by my university
- Trainings I have taken on my own (e.g. independent of work or school)
- Other

- I have not participated in any other professional development

Based on what you have been able to utilize from these other experiences, how does the Career Connections seminar compare?

- Much more useful
- Slightly more useful
- About the same
- Slightly less useful
- Much less useful

What changes would you make to the Career Connections seminar? *Select all that apply.*

- Make each seminar longer (currently, each seminar is 2 days)
- Offer a wider variety of topics at each seminar
- Focus more on interactive workshops
- Provide more time for networking
- Provide more time for resume assistance
- Provide more time for one-on-one/mentorship opportunities at the seminar
- None
- Other

What other session topics should be considered for the Career Connections program?

Overall, how satisfied were you with your Career Connections experience?

Extremely satisfied

Moderately satisfied

Neutral

Moderately dissatisfied

Extremely dissatisfied

Would you recommend Career Connections to other alumni?

Yes

No



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Why would you not recommend Career Connections?



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Career Connections Program Evaluation

Why have you not participated in a Career Connections seminar? *Select all that apply.*

I have never heard of Career Connections

Seminars were not held in cities near me

I was not interested in the sessions offered because I am not job hunting

I was not interested in the sessions offered because they did not look interesting to me

The experts conducting the seminars aren't great

Other



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The Career Connections program brings together U.S. alumni (18-35 years old) of U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs with expert career coaches, professionals from diverse fields, and international leaders to help alumni market their international exchange experiences. Delivered as two-day seminars across the country, the Career Connections program provides invaluable networking opportunities for U.S. alumni with leaders in their communities with activities including: resume-building, developing a personal brand, translating skills gained through the exchange experience, developing an online presence, and networking to develop connections with fellow alumni and expert speakers alike.

Based on this information, would you be interested in participating in a future Career Connections seminar?

Yes

No

In which of the following ways are you in contact with the Office of Alumni Affairs?
Select all that apply.

LinkedIn

Twitter

Facebook

Instagram

Email

International Exchange Alumni Website (alumni.state.gov)

Through Partners of the Americas

Through another program office at ECA

Other

None of the above

How would you like to hear about opportunities like Career Connections? *Select all that apply.*

LinkedIn

Twitter

Facebook

Instagram

Email

International Exchange Alumni Website (alumni.state.gov)

Through Partners of the Americas

Through another program office at ECA

Other

None of the above

What kinds of professional development seminars would you be interested in attending?



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Career Connections Program Evaluation

We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.
Your response has been recorded.

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