



NEXTGEN

EMERGING LEADERS RESOURCE NETWORK

TOP 5 WAYS TO LEVEL UP YOUR CAREER

1. Mentoring: Learning from Experience

Do you have someone you admire professionally? Do you think they're awesome at their responsibilities and go above and beyond in them? Or are they outstanding at specific skills you want to become better at? Send them an e-mail and let them know you are trying to strengthen your abilities so you can increase your effectiveness and impact, and you'd like them to consider being your mentor for X amount of time to achieve X goal. This allows you to communicate your needs and wants while considering the commitment they may need to make. They are also likely to connect you with someone else if they cannot commit!

2. Talking to People Outside Your Department: Expanding Horizons

While it's crucial to excel in your own role, don't limit yourself to your department's bubble. Connecting with other departments can offer fresh perspectives, ideas, and insights. These connections can lead to collaboration opportunities, help you understand how our organization operates, and open doors to career opportunities. You not only enhance your knowledge but also position yourself as a versatile team player.

Where to start? Identify a department you are interested in. Then, find an upcoming event/meeting or connect with someone to learn about what the department does.

3. Networking: Building Meaningful Connections

Networking is more than just exchanging business cards at events; it's about building authentic relationships. Attend branch and association events, workshops, and social events to meet others from diverse backgrounds. Engage in meaningful conversations, listen actively, and show a genuine interest in others. Remember, a strong network isn't just about who you know, but also about who knows you and your skills.

Where to start? Ask around and see what's happening! Attend as many social or organizational events as you can.

4. Upskilling: Embracing Lifelong Learning

In the ever-evolving landscape of work, upskilling is a necessity. Upgrading your skills and knowledge ensures that you remain relevant and adaptable. Take advantage of online courses, webinars, and certifications to learn about emerging technologies, trends, and best practices in the field you desire to be in. By staying ahead of the curve, you position yourself as a valuable asset to the Y and professional.

Where to start? Try taking classes on Skillshare, LinkedIn Learning, volunteering, updating your resume and interview skills.

5. Saying Yes to Opportunities: Stepping Out of Your Comfort Zone

It's natural to feel comfortable within your existing role, but growth often comes from embracing challenges outside your comfort zone. Don't shy away from new projects, assignments, or responsibilities that come your way, even if they seem daunting at first. Each opportunity presents a chance to learn, demonstrate your capabilities, and prove your worth. Stepping up to challenges showcases your initiative and resilience, qualities that are highly valued by employers and colleagues alike.

ABOUT NEXTGEN

NextGen is a resource-building network aiming to assist and empower all YMCA staff under the age of 35 to explore growth opportunities to be next-generation leaders within the YMCA movement.