As part of our mission to create meaningful connections to the world of work and to provide graduates with skills, networks, and knowledge for successful lifelong career planning, the Center for Career and Professional Development welcomes K alumni and friends to join current students for professional networking in the Guilds.

What are the Guilds?

Unique to K and housed in the CCPD, the Guilds convene students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the College for mentoring, sharing of career information and opportunities, and professional networking. In a contemporary take on a medieval tradition, the Guilds foster mentoring relationships in which professional “masters” share their experience, knowledge, and connections with student “apprentices.”

The Kalamazoo College Guilds coalesce participation around interdisciplinary fields that encourage participants to identify and follow their passions into professions. As of January 2013, the seven Guilds include Arts & Media, Business, Education, Health, Law, Nonprofit & Public Service, and Science & Technology.

For students, Guilds connect elements of their K-Plan into a more integrated educational experience and develop professional relationships useful after graduation. As students become alumni and move along career paths, the Guilds make it easy to stay connected to other Hornet professionals for a lifetime.

Why Join a Guild?

Students and alumni benefit from these exclusive professional networks. Whether your goal is to recruit a talented and passionate liberal arts graduate, offer your advice and expertise to young professionals, maintain connections with Hornets in your field, or simply stay abreast of what’s happening in career development at Kalamazoo College, the Guilds offer unique access to a worldwide community of K professionals.

Alumni benefits of the Guilds include:

- **Showcase for Your Expertise:** answer students’ career and grad school questions, make introductions to other professionals, and discuss trends and current issues in your industries and workplaces;

- **Pipeline to Talent:** offer externship and internship opportunities and recruit for entry-level positions in your company or organization;

- **Network of Professionals:** engage with other Hornet professionals, making connections that can lead to business partnerships, sharing of contacts and expertise, informal and formal consulting, and employment opportunities.

- **Value Added for K:** contribute to distinctiveness of your alma mater’s unique Guilds initiative by mentoring and sharing your networks with the next generation of K professionals.
Who is Joining the Guilds?

Attorneys, entrepreneurs, managers, artists, climate change analysts, marketers, teachers, scientists, community organizers, corporate recruiters, and public servants, all bound together by their connection to Kalamazoo College. Many of these professionals find a home within one of the seven existing Guilds; others simply join the general Guilds group for broad K connections and networking.

Business developer Matt Bunkowski '00 sees the Guilds “as a great way to keep abreast of what’s taking place on campus, but also a way to participate and give back from afar. This can easily be done without taking up too much time, being too intrusive, or distracting from other responsibilities,” he says. “I have been quite successful in my short career, largely due to the help and mentoring from my network through K and beyond. The Guilds are an easy way for a person to give back as well as to identify and recruit that next potential superstar. They also enable professionals to expand their own networks and establish themselves as thought leaders or industry experts.”

How Do I Join the Guilds?

Get started by finding and joining the Kalamazoo College Guilds on the professional networking platform LinkedIn. Boasting a membership in April 2015 of over 357 million professionals in more than 200 countries, LinkedIn is quickly becoming an indispensable tool for job seekers, and the CCPD website offers support for students and alumni who are creating their first professional online presence.

Once you’ve joined the main Guilds group on LinkedIn, find the list of Subgroups for each of the seven Guilds on the lower right side of the page, and join one or more. You’ll soon see how Guilds foster inter-generational connections through face-to-face interaction as well as virtual communication. The Guilds network opens opportunities for alumni, parents, and friends of the College to bring their real-world professional wisdom to campus—the CCPD facilitates Guild member appearances in classes, meetings, extracurricular presentations, and webinars.

Have more questions?
Check out our easy-to-follow tutorials at www.kzoo.edu/guilds.