

## **Tufts Friedman School Featured Alumni – Information for Student Participants**

Friedman School featured alumni volunteers will engage in “flash-mentoring” with current Friedman School students, i.e., one-time or short-term meetings that provide knowledge or skill development. All meetings will take place via Zoom, with links provided by the Block Career Center.

### **Understanding Flash-Mentoring**

*What flash-mentoring is:*

- Short career conversations whereby Friedman School alumni offer advice based on professional and life experiences
- Tips, resources, and encouragement given by someone who was once in your shoes

*What flash-mentoring is NOT:*

- A mentoring program whereby students are pre-assigned to alumni
- An ongoing time commitment requiring outside research and work from alumni volunteers\*

\*We aim to encourage students to speak with and learn from a variety of individuals in short career conversations, but this does not preclude students and alumni from establishing a more long-term connection, if desired by both parties.

### **Expectations for Students**

- Make the first contact by scheduling a meeting with a Featured Alumni volunteer
- Respond to any/all communication from alumni in a timely fashion
- Prepare questions for conversations and participate fully in the discussion
- Make appropriate requests to alumni, i.e., advice and information and *not* jobs or internships
- Approach relationships with an open mind, professionalism, and respect
- Be receptive to suggestions and feedback

## **FAQs for Student Participants**

### **How do I schedule a conversation with one of the Featured Alumni?**

Each of the [Career Directions](#) on the Block Career Center website includes featured alumni who have offered 30-min. time slots when they are available for career conversations. We encourage you to review the available alumni profiles, select the individual you’d like to speak with, and then schedule a time to talk by visiting the scheduling link within the person’s profile. When you schedule, you’ll be asked for your name, email, phone number (in case of technical difficulties), and a brief summary of your goals for the conversation. You’ll then receive a confirmation email, which will include the Zoom meeting details.

### **How should I prepare for my conversation?**

As with other informational interviews (a.k.a. career conversations) you may have had, you’ll be asking the majority of the questions. Think about what you can learn from this person and what kind of information and advice will help you in your career journey. It is important to prepare questions in advance, perhaps 7-10 for a half-hour conversation. You may not get to ask all of them, but that’s to be expected. If you’re wondering which sorts of questions to ask, check out the [Informational Interviewing page](#) of the Block Career Center site.

**What should I do after my conversation?**

As your conversation comes to a close, you're welcome to ask the alumni volunteer if you can connect with them on LinkedIn. From there, you'll be able to send a thank you message and/or schedule a follow-up conversation.

**What if I need to cancel my conversation?**

We understand – things come up! Please use the cancel or reschedule link in your original meeting confirmation email. If you can't find your confirmation, reach out to Susannah Krenn at [susannah.krenn@tufts.edu](mailto:susannah.krenn@tufts.edu), and she'll help you.

**My alumni volunteer did not show up for our scheduled meeting. What should I do?**

Feel free to reach out to Susannah Krenn at [susannah.krenn@tufts.edu](mailto:susannah.krenn@tufts.edu), and she'll contact the alumni volunteer to see if they're able to reschedule.

**Will the Featured Alumni remain the same for the academic year?**

We'll be rotating our Featured Alumni throughout the year, so be sure to check the [Career Directions](#) relevant to your professional and personal interests to review profiles of new alumni and schedule additional conversations.