



CONNECTS

What is ESCOM CONNECTS?

ESCOM CONNECTS, an intergenerational program of Emeritus Students College of Marin, offers support to COM students as they explore career avenues, prepare to transfer to 4-year schools, and move forward in their lives. ESCOM members have rich and diverse backgrounds and knowledge in a broad scope of industries and life experiences. ESCOM CONNECTS is ready and willing to bring a wealth of life and professional experiences, expertise, and wisdom to support the College's faculty, staff, and students.

ESCOM members offer a perspective based on years of hands-on experience in careers including banking, marketing, architecture, technology, law, public relations, sales, manufacturing, entrepreneurship, teaching, research, medicine, science and the arts. This is an interactive opportunity for students to establish a mutually beneficial relationship with an active senior eager to connect with the energy and enthusiasm of COM students. This partnership provides ESCOM members occasions to learn about the students' career and educational goals, passions and challenges.

Why ESCOM CONNECTS?

- Students exposed to 3 or more industries are 90% more likely to get an interview.
- 70% of jobs are gained through networking—First generation students often lack access to these networks.

COM faculty and staff are faced with the challenge of capturing the intellect and interest of their students. ESCOM CONNECTS is structured to offer such assistance. With a membership list of over 2000, ESCOM coordinators will identify and select appropriate members to fit the faculty request. Be it a discussion panel addressing leadership, assistance with an election day event, entrepreneurial guidance, interviewing techniques, scientific career opportunities, or preparation of an art display, ESCOM's members are ready to serve.

How Do I Start?

The process is quite simple. Once a faculty or staff member decides to utilize the program, they contact the ESCOM CONNECTS coordinator to discuss the proposed project and the process begins. The details of subject matter, time, place, goals, and review are discussed. The coordinator then reaches out to the appropriate ESCOM CONNECTS members to make the arrangements. The volunteers are linked directly with faculty or staff to finalize expectations and logistics. Afterwards ESCOM CONNECTS will conduct a follow up evaluation.



Their intent is to connect with students, faculty, and classified professionals and share their expertise as guest speakers, panelists and mentors. It's a win-win-win that breathes new life into the organization and honors the diverse backgrounds and knowledge of our ESCOM members.

—David Wain Coon, Ed.D., *Superintendent/President*
SF Chronicle article, 10/23/22

ESCOM CONNECTS SAMPLE MENU

- Administer COM developed surveys and/or interviews
- Assist in the production of special events
- Participate in panel discussions or as guest speakers
- Act as greeters or guides
- Mentor
- Judge student competitions
- Participate in student clubs and groups
- Be interviewed for class projects and/or assist with mock interviews
- Additional needs proposed by Faculty

What Do You Need?

We need to hear from you, the faculty and staff of College of Marin.

What do you need from ESCOM Connects?

Are your students interested in hearing from:

- Experienced retailers who can discuss inventory control and open-to-buy planning?
- Retired physicians who can address the current career needs of the medical community?
- An experienced human resource professional who can provide job interview training?
- Retired counselors who can help alleviate some of the anxiety and worry around the transfer process?

Be creative in your requests and let us know how we may serve your needs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Testimonials

When we started to examine the topic of organizational leadership, I thought it might be helpful to create a panel discussion with four ESCOM CONNECTS panelists with practical career experience in leadership as well as significantly varied industry expertise and life experience. Each panelist spoke to their experience, life lessons, successes, and challenges. Students asked a variety of thoughtful questions, which proved to be the richest portion of the day.

—TIM WAT, Instructor and Chair, Business

I appreciated that each panelist had different takes on the questions about leadership.

It was encouraging to hear from women who have been in leadership positions.

I liked that it was open-ended; there was enough time for us to ask our questions, and they had time to really answer us with some detail.

—COM STUDENTS

This was a wonderful experience to spend some quality time with students and share various professional and life accomplishments and viewpoints regarding leadership and situations we could have addressed differently when we started our careers. I was impressed by the students' engaging and thought-provoking questions on how we would handle various situations. At the end, I made it clear to the students that if they have additional questions, that all of the panelists are available and we are here to support them. We all left excited about future opportunities to continue our conversation with the students, learn from their experiences, and support their educational and workforce endeavors.

—ESCOM CONNECT PANELIST