

# Having the right people in your corner changes everything



10 ways  
to build a  
network  
that has  
your back



**1**

# **Put the project out before it's perfect**

## **Why**

Visibility creates confidence.

## **Try this**

Share a draft idea in a team meeting before it's "ready."



**2**

# **Nurture relationships beyond your org chart**

## **Why**

External networks build perspective and power.

## **Try this**

Join a committee in an industry group.



**3**

# **Cultivate your internal network with intention**

## **Why**

Relationships drive visibility and sponsorship.

## **Try this**

Book a skip-level 1:1, ask to present to leadership, trade insights with other departments.



**4**

# **Earn a sponsor by making your value visible**

## **Why**

Sponsors notice people who contribute and follow through.

## **Try this**

Speak up in meetings. Volunteer. Be reliable when it counts.



5

## Lead with what energizes you

Why

Passion is more memorable than polish.

Try this

Open with: “I’m obsessed with solving \_\_\_\_.”



**6**

# **Ask the question no one else does**

## **Why**

Stand out by being  
curious, not clever.

## **Try this**

Ask: “What’s something you  
wish people asked you more?”



7

# Show up where people pay attention

**Why**

Add insight, not noise

**Try this**

Comment thoughtfully.  
Ask smart questions in  
public forums.





**8**

# **Join communities that feel like exhaling**

## **Why**

Shared experience is a shortcut to real connection.

## **Try this**

Go where women say, “You don’t have to explain here.”



9

# Show them why connecting with you is worth it

## Why

Give them a reason to say yes before you ask.

## Try this

Reference their work. Offer an insight. Create real relevance.



**10**

# **Send the message you'd want to get**

**Meaning?**

Keep it honest,  
specific, and human.

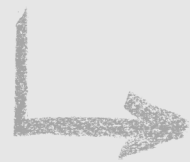
**Try this**

"I learned so much from your presentation."



# The magic isn't working harder.

It's working connected.



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# The Career Edit

*from Stephanie Eidelman*

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