

## Conferences: How to Get the Most Out of Them

Alexandra Bruce from Iowa State University has the following advice about getting the most out of conferences:

“Conferences are a great way to network with people. **Quick tips: sign up for as many things as possible and get as many business cards as possible.** My first year at the Houston MS&T in 2010 I signed up for the tour at TMK IPSCO’s seamless pipe plant, found it very interesting, and got some contact information at the site. This resulted in my first internship at TMK IPSCO in Camanche, IA last summer, which was a great opportunity for me. A fellow ISU MA member, Brad Williams, was able to get a summer internship at Owens Corning after talking with a recruiter at the career pavilion at MS&T 2011 in Columbus, OH.

Also, if you are interested in graduate school, conferences are a great way to meet both graduate students and professors from different universities. **Quick tip: go to alumni receptions for universities you are interested in learning more about.** Last year during the Columbus MS&T some of my friends and I went to the Purdue alumni reception and were able to meet with several professors, undergrads, graduate students, and alumnus from the university who were happy to talk with us about what Purdue is like. Because of this, I applied to Purdue, was accepted, and will be starting there in the fall.

So, go to conferences and network! You get to meet interesting people, learn more about potential employers and graduate schools, and get interviews for internships and jobs.”

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