



AIBL National Conference

Networking Competition Guidelines

The **Networking Competition** is an opportunity for students to practice communication, active listening, and networking skills. Students will approach business professionals, who are also acting as judges, inside a shared space that mimics a common networking event. Students will practice introducing themselves and share future professional goals, while also showing interest and curiosity about the person they are conversing with through questions and inquiry.

Who Should Participate

We encourage students to participate if they are interested in:

- Networking with business professionals
- Strengthening communication and active listening skills

Eligibility Requirements

Active AIBL Chapter members. Students must travel to the AIBL National Conference to compete live on stage.

Competition Divisions

No divisions.

Awards

There will be three winners:

- 1st Place: \$300
- 2nd Place: \$200
- 3rd Place: \$100

Competition Overview

Preparation

- ☐ Individual students are responsible for ensuring guidelines are met and deadlines are adhered to.
- ☐ Submit interest to compete by filling out the submission form.
- ☐ Practice introducing yourself and research networking tips.

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- ☐ Greet, mingle, and network with registered RES participants.
- ☐ Judges scores tallied up after the networking time frame closes.
- ☐ Cash prizes awarded on stage.

Submission Instructions

Students must adhere to all guidelines, submission dates, and deadlines. All deadlines are the due dates listed on the competition portal, PST 11:59 pm. Students must use the competition portal at aibl.org/annual-conference to sign up and secure a spot to compete on stage at the National Conference. The first 30 students who sign up by the deadline will be registered for networking time. If any open spots remain, walk-ups will be accepted during the time of the competition at the National Conference.

Time Adherence

The judged competition portion will be 45 minutes.

Competition Portion

Once the 45-minute clock starts, students will take initiative to approach, meet, and greet business professionals wearing a RES registration badge. Students should plan on speaking with one individual for no more than 5-7 minutes before approaching someone new. Conversations should be organic and natural; however, key conversation points will be noted by judges for students who:

- Introduces themselves first
- Mentions school name and major
- Shares future professional goals
- Asks the professional what type of industry they work in
- BONUS: ask professional something unique

Judges Scoring

The judges' scores will remain confidential during and after the competition. Students will be judged on the following criteria:

- Introduction (name)
- School info (school name/major)
- Student professional goals (career field, job title, role, business, community impact, etc.)
- RES professional industry and work (where do they work, job title, mission, how they serve)
- RES professional bonus question (ask something unique that helps you stand out)
- Nonverbals (posture, eye contact, attire, expressions)
- Conversation exit (was there a seamless transition to ending the conversation)

There is no point system, but overall 1st, 2nd, and 3rd placement by each judge based on who they spoke with. It benefits you to speak to as many professionals as you can without compromising or rushing conversations.