1. **What is Networked Communities?**

Networked Communities is a presidential initiative to connect our students (initially undergraduate and accelerated degree students) to learning communities that provide mentorship, college-to-career exploration and advice, and world and workplace opportunities around similar career and academic interests. Through these connections, students learn the relevancy and application of classroom knowledge and skills across these communities, discovering opportunities within these themed communities and become an active member of community bridging Clark to real world experiences.

2. **Why Networked Communities?**

Learning to contribute to and collaborate within a community of peers and partners is an essential skill for future success. The connections you make and the support you receive from – and give to – other community members are powerful advantages. Networked Communities models this structure and energy by extending our reach beyond campus to expand students’ knowledge and preparation of industries and organizations to prepare for a successful launch your career with the full force of the Clark community behind them.

3. **Who oversees Networked Communities?**

The Alumni & Friends Engagement Office in partnership with the LEEP center is the convener of Networked Communities bringing together students, faculty, alumni, parents and friends for career development and exploration that lead to a successful launch from Clark.

Overseeing the initiative is the Alumni & Friends Engagement Office, the LEEP Center, a University Steering Committee and Alumni and Faculty co-chairs for each community.

4. **What is the Clark Connect digital platform?**

Next academic year, a new and exciting way to connect will launch officially to undergraduates, accelerated degree students, and our alumni community. Clark Connect – a digital platform – will facilitate and expand access to mentorship, opportunities and community.

Let us know if you want to join Clark Connect by completing this form at [http://www.clarku.edu/NCinterest-form](http://www.clarku.edu/NCinterest-form).

When the time comes for deployment, you will receive an invite to connect on the platform.
5. How can I get involved? Mentoring, Opportunities & Community
Networked Communities combine great people and great tools. The people include you - students, alumni, faculty, and Clark partners and supporters. The tools include a soon-to-be-launched online platform – Clark Connect - for mentorship, collaboration, experiential opportunities, knowledge-sharing, inspiring symposia and other events.

a. Mentoring – coming soon on Clark Connect
Fostering connections with Clark University alumni, parents and friends on a wide range of fields and interests to provide valuable mentorship, graduate school guidance and career advice.

b. Opportunities – you can submit an opportunity today at http://www.clarku.edu/NCopp-form.
Networked Communities makes use of an extensive network of Clark alumni, parents and friends who are eager to provide real-world opportunities to amplify Clark students’ liberal arts education and prepare them for successful launch. Submitted Networked Communities Opportunities seek to:
• Build capacity for Clarkies at your organization by posting the opportunity.
• Give preference to an applicant from Clark and shepherd a student through the application/hiring process.
• Be willing to connect the student to someone within your organization with hiring authority.

To learn more and/or submit an opportunity go here at http://www.clarku.edu/NCopp-form.

c. Community
Expand your network. Attend a Networked Community event. See what is happening here at https://clarkconnect.clarku.edu/attend-alumni-events.
Host a Networked Community event. Contact Donna Curry to learn more.
Participate in Career reparation Program/Workshops. Contact Donna Curry at dcurry@clarku.edu to learn more.

6. What kinds of opportunities is Clark to bridge theory with practice?

a. Internships
Internships offer challenging and engaging work experiences that enables a student to gain knowledge and skills within an organization, industry, or functional area that reflects the student's academic and professional interests. We suggest an eight-week position (June-July) with minimum pay of $3,500 (based on 35-40 hours per week).

Can I post unpaid internships?
Yes, but unpaid internships at for-profit organizations should be consistent with the six criteria for internships defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act [https://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/whdfs71.htm].
Paid internship positions typically receive more applications than unpaid internship postings.

If I need help developing my internship, whom do I contact?
We recommend starting with the Employer Internship Guide [http://www2.clarku.edu/offices/career/employers/internship/index.cfm] for various tools of development for your opportunity.

b. LEEP projects
LEEP Projects offer students real-world applications of course material, allowing students to have authentic problem solving experiences all while engaging with others outside of Clark. This means that projects should have:

- A well-defined deliverable or tangible end product toward which the student can work.
- A clear set of expectations of, as well as benefits for, the student.
- A project supervisor, who serves as the primary point-of-contact and manages the student and their project.
- An external component, broadly defined, that allows the student to engage with others outside of Clark. A project sponsor and a faculty mentor.

c. Job shadowing
A work experience option where students learn about a job by walking through the workday as a shadow to a competent worker. The job shadowing work experience is a temporary, unpaid exposure to the workplace in a professional area of interest to the student.

7. How do students learn about Networked Communities Opportunities?
Students will receive information about your Networked Communities posting through career and peer advisors, academic departments, campus newsletters, and social media outreach. Every effort is made to promote your opportunity so you receive applicants. If you have questions at any time during the posting process, please contact Donna Curry, Director of Networked Communities at dcurry@clarku.edu.