

MODULE 9

Welcome to the Path Forward Alumni Community!



Just like that, the returnship has come to an end. Congratulations on a job very well done! You have restarted your career and are ready to move onto the next chapter. We're sure that by going through this program, you did what you set out to do: gained new professional experiences, refreshed your network and learned more about yourself.

As you enter the next phase of your professional career, there are plenty of ways you can stay connected with Path Forward and the returnship alumni community. Furthermore, you have an important new role to play as a program graduate: to pay your experience forward. Below are just a few ways you can keep in touch and help others like you – or reach out for help when you need it yourself.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

– Helen Keller



Community and Social Media

We've created space online for the Path Forward community to interact in. You can use our [Path Forward Community](#) on LinkedIn to not only share updates on your progress, but also find and give support to fellow returners and jobseekers. This incredible group, that you are now a part of, consists of thousands of program alumni working at hundreds of companies nationwide. If you find yourself looking for a new opportunity, you now have a direct connection to people working in great places who can share information about company culture, job openings, and what the interview process may be like.

On the flip side, as we've said many times throughout these modules, your next job is not your last job. If you know of a job opening on your team – post it! Offer to hold a brief information interview or serve as an internal referral if you're comfortable. Think of how you'd like to be helped in the future and extend yourself to others that way now.

Make a Gift

We are so proud to be able to work with returners and to encourage companies to create more returnship opportunities. We know these opportunities open the door for deserving people to re-engage with their careers, and to help build more diverse and inclusive workplaces. We're committed to keeping our content and support free for all returners.

Your gift of any size will help us continue to support future returners who, like you just a few months ago, are looking to get back to work. Don't forget to see if your company offers an employer matching program to maximize the impact of your contribution! We're so fortunate to have received generous contributions from grateful alumni like those listed on the following page. Gifts in any amount are appreciated and help us continue this important work.

The power of Path Forward is immeasurable. Let's all show our support and gratitude!

–Neema, Spring 2019

Path Forward helped me get back in the workforce with a job I love, I hope this donation helps someone else like me.

–Sherry, Fall 2019

Thank you Path Forward for helping me resume my career after almost a decade!

–Sil, Fall 2019

I am so grateful to Path Forward for helping me return to the workforce!!!!

–Kim, Spring 2018



Help Drive Future Programs and Returners

Your company may decide to do this program again – especially after seeing how amazing you and your fellow returners are. You can push the process forward by advocating for returnships to management and offering to act as a mentor for future cohorts. Making yourself available to support future returners is a great way to give back and help someone overcome the same challenges that you did. Take them out to lunch, lend your perspective, introduce them to useful company contacts, and be an encouraging resource for them.

If you’re starting a new job at another company now or in the future, we hope you’ll advocate to bring returnships to your new organization. Your drive and skills coupled with your enthusiasm to re-create this program can be the reason another returner gets the same opportunity you have.

Stay in Touch!

We are so proud of all that you have accomplished and we're confident you'll continue to reach new heights because of your perseverance and drive. Whether you've gotten a promotion and want to shout it from the rooftops, are looking for a new opportunity down the road, have a friend interested in the program, or simply just want to chat, we're here for you.



“Without a Path Forward returnship, I don’t think I would have been able to prove myself and my capabilities in such a short amount of time. It would have taken me years to get to the leadership level I’m at now.”

–Mimi, Spring 2019



“The returnship provided a dedicated channel for someone with a career gap to get in front of a hiring manager... I felt like the program really leveled the playing field and allowed me a chance to prove myself.”

–Michelle, Fall 2019



“The initial expectations are not overwhelming—the structure of the returnship gives you time to ramp-up and find your way. Path Forward provides a great support system and mentorship, which helps you adjust.”

–Romasha, Fall 2017



Join Path Forward volunteers, alumni, and your fellow returners in our [online community](#) to find helpful advice, resources, networking, and more.