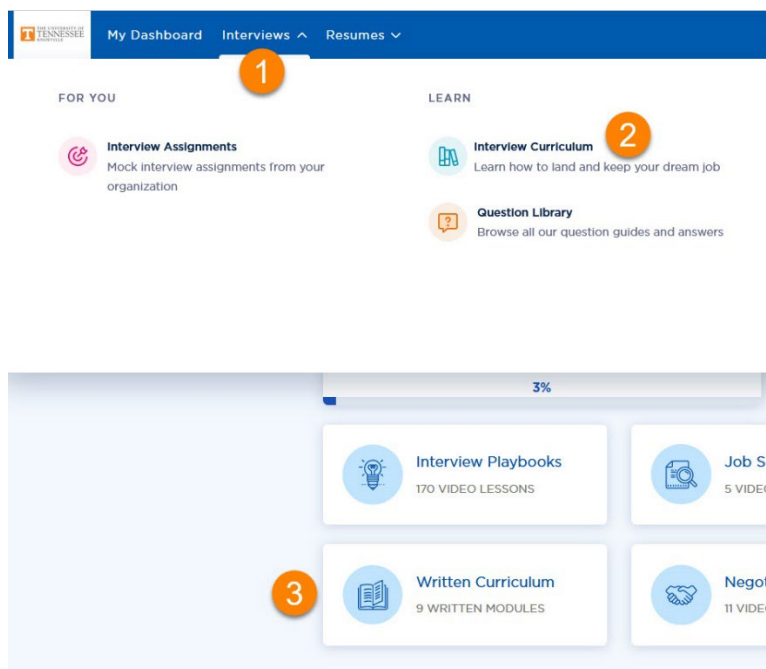


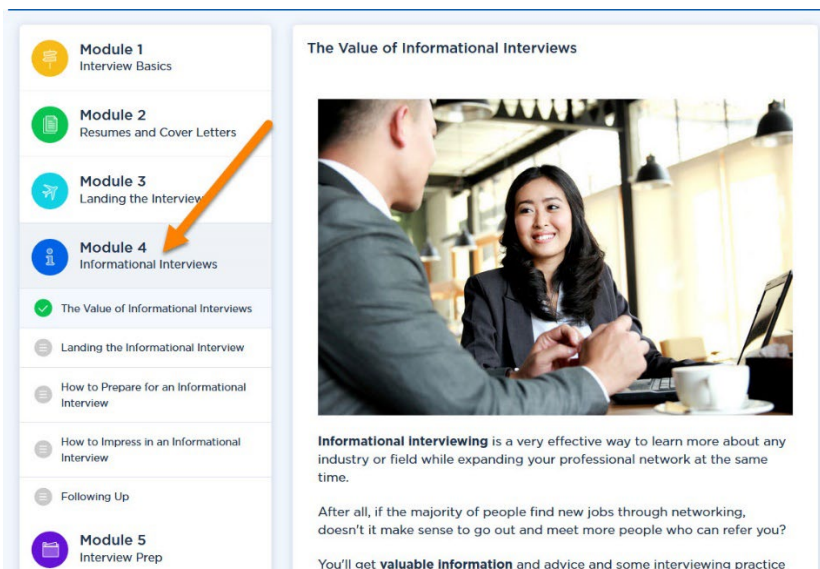
Fall 2023 Geography and Sustainability Career Mingle

Who should I talk to and what should I ask about?

A career mingle is designed so that you can talk to professionals from a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines in a short amount of time. So, at a high level, you should talk to anyone attending that sounds interesting to you or anyone who represents an organization you would like to learn more about. Unlike a traditional job fair, at a career mingle you are going to be asking the questions. These conversations where you are asking all the questions are often called informational interviews. The UTK Center for Career Development has an [informational interview guide](#) that you should review before you attend the career mingle. There is also a great informational interview guide in the UTK [BigInterview](#) platform (here is a [BigInterview getting started guide](#)). You'll need to register for BigInterview with your UTK email. Once your account is set up, click the Interviews tab at the top of the screen, then click on Interview Curriculum, then Written Curriculum, then select Module 4.

BigInterview Informational Interview Prep Material Steps





The Geography Career Mingle offers two ways to interact with the attending organizations.

1. One-on-One Interviews – Use these 10-minute sessions to meet individuals one-on-one.
2. Group Sessions - Use these 30-minute sessions to meet individuals in a group setting with other students

Prior to attending a session in the career mingle, spend some time researching the different organizations you want to meet. We've provided a link below each organization's name to make it easy to find them. There are also links directly within Handshake.

Many of the people attending the career mingle are UTK Geography and Sustainability graduates. Look for this symbol:



We highly recommend that you treat these informational interviews just like you would a job interview.

- Attend the sessions you sign up for. Each employer will see your name for your sessions.
- Arrive to your sessions on time.
- Dress appropriately even though it's virtual.
- Come prepared to the session with questions.
- Ask for the person's contact information so you can follow up with a thank you of some kind.
- Ask if you can contact them with follow up questions. If so, ask for their preferred form of communication (email, LinkedIn, etc).

I can't stress this point enough. Each of these people operate in tightly knit professional communities. You don't want to make a bad impression with an organization or in an industry you'd like to work in.

We've provided instructions at the end of this document if you've never used Handshake before and need help finding and registering for sessions.

This is the highest concentration of professional geographers and sustainers you'll have the chance to interact with as a student here at UTK, so **don't miss this opportunity**. Some of you may be nervous about talking to these professionals. That's normal. The good news is that each one of these people loves what they do and are eager to share their professional passion with you. Remember, they signed up for this event because they want to talk to you.

Have fun and be curios.

Below is a list of the organizations and people attending the career mingle. Feel free to look them up on LinkedIn and search for their name and the name of their organization online. We've also included some specific topics you may want to ask about with each organization.

Career Mingle | Wed. October 25 | 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET

EAS Professionals

<https://eas-pro.com/>



Mimi Thomas, Director of Business Development -

Be sure to ask me about:

- Studying abroad in Germany
- Working as a human geographer

Oak Ridge National Laboratory

<http://www.ornl.gov/>

- Katie Ertell, Emergency Management Meteorologist
- Mary Brown, Technical Professional in Meteorological Modeling

Omni Ecosystems

<https://www.omniecosystems.com/>

- Jesse Rosenbluth, President

Be sure to ask me about:

- Green roofs
- Urban planning
- Green infrastructure

Knoxville-Knox County Planning

<https://www.knoxplanning.org/>



Madison Louis, Planning and Addressing Specialist

NASA Earth Science Disasters Program

<https://disasters.nasa.gov/>

Ronan Lucey, Research Associate III - I am a Research Associate supporting the NASA Applied Science Earth Science Disasters Program. In this role, I serve as an administrator of the NASA Disasters GIS Mapping Portal, as well as a provider of Program coordination support for Latin America / Caribbean and domestic partners throughout the Disaster cycle – risk, resilience, response, and recovery. I received my bachelor's degree in Geography from the University of Massachusetts, and my master's degree in Earth System Science from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Be sure to ask me about:

- Undergraduate opportunities and how to seek those out to prepare you for the working force, particularly in a field like geography where the degree can be applied to a wide range of positions and career paths.
- My background in computer science – I almost failed computer science my freshman year of college and now I use it regularly for work, there was a monumental shift in there that students can learn from.
- What employers/hiring managers are looking for beyond GIS experience and coursework – as a Principal Investigator I do hire students straight out of school, and there are soft and hard skills that are considered valuable and can enhance the resume of prospective hires.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

<https://www.noaa.gov/>



Paul Lemieux III, Physical Scientist - Paul received his B.A. in Geography and M.S. in Information Science from the University of Tennessee in 2014 and 2016 respectively. He currently works as a Physical Scientist for the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. Previously he has interned at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, the ORNL DAAC, and the ORNL Research Library.

If students want to learn about navigating USAJobs for gov't positions I can help with that. I can also talk about navigating internships within the NASA system. Not really aware of any certifications needed for this industry, but ML/AI and Cloud Development are big initiatives being pushed in gov't right now.

Be sure to ask me about:

- Metadata, archives, digital curation, libraries
- Weather, kites
- Connect on LinkedIn

National Weather Service, Morristown, TN

<https://www.weather.gov/mrx/>

Brandon Wasilewski, General Forecaster Meteorologist

University of Tennessee Gardens

<https://utgardens.tennessee.edu/>

Whitney Hale, Education Coordinator

USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/upper-midwest-environmental-sciences-center>



Kyle Landolt, Geographer

Be sure to ask me about:

- Working at ORNL
- Graduate degrees

ESRI

<https://www.esri.com/en-us/home>



Jordan Brasher, ESRI Instructor

National Park Service

<https://www.esri.com/en-us/home>



Taylin Spurlock, Interpretive Ranger

Stantec

<https://www.stantec.com/en>



Caitlyn Mills, GIS Analyst

City of Rockville, Maryland

<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/159/Community-Planning-and-Development-Servi>



Jace Swain-Crowley, GIS Analyst

National Trust for Historic Preservation

<https://savingplaces.org/>

Kate Lenzer, Senior GIS Project Manager - Kate Lenzer, M.S., GISP is the Senior GIS Project Manager for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a non-profit organization dedicated to saving America's historic sites, telling the full American story, building stronger communities, and investing in preservation's future. Kate has spent the last 10 years combining science (GIS) with creativity (cartography) to save both land-based and historic resources across the country.

Be sure to ask me about:

- What's the positive (and negative) of working for a small GIS consulting firm? For a non-profit organization?
- How are you using GIS in the humanities/to understand racial equity/to understand climate change effects?
- I don't know what I want to do with my life, how did you figure out what career trajectory to take?

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Brooke Erreger, Environmental Manager

Bonnie Craighead, Environmental Scientist II - I graduated from UTK with a degree in Environmental and Soil Science, I then went on to have an AmeriCorps position with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement in Knoxville, which regulates surface coal mining. After that I spent two years working with the USDA-NRCS as a Soil Conservation Technician before landing at my current position as an NPDES permit writer and coal mine inspector for the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Mining Section, where I have worked the last two years.

Be sure to ask me about:

Fall 2023 Geography Career Mingle | Who should I talk to and what should I ask about?

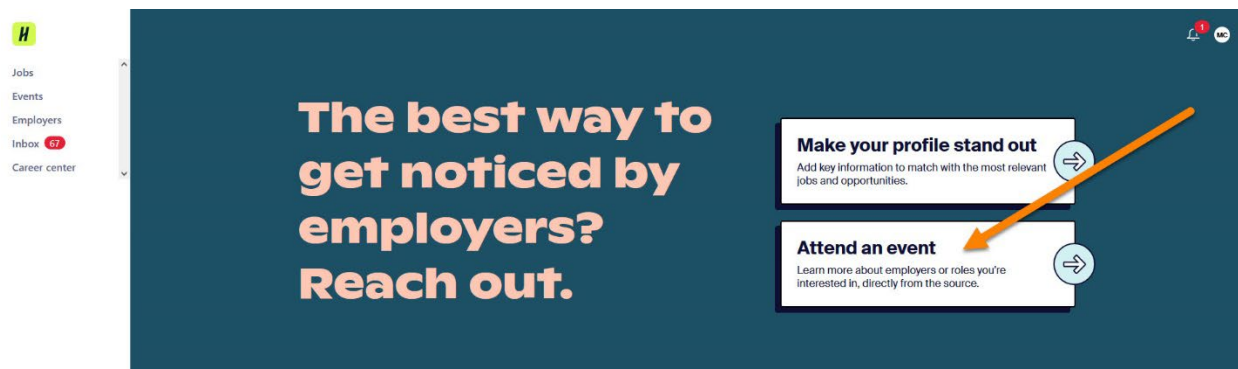
- My experience with AmeriCorps
- TDEC offers unpaid, semester long internship programs, including one in the Mining Section
- TDEC employees people with a wide range of backgrounds and degree programs

Questions? Contact us at

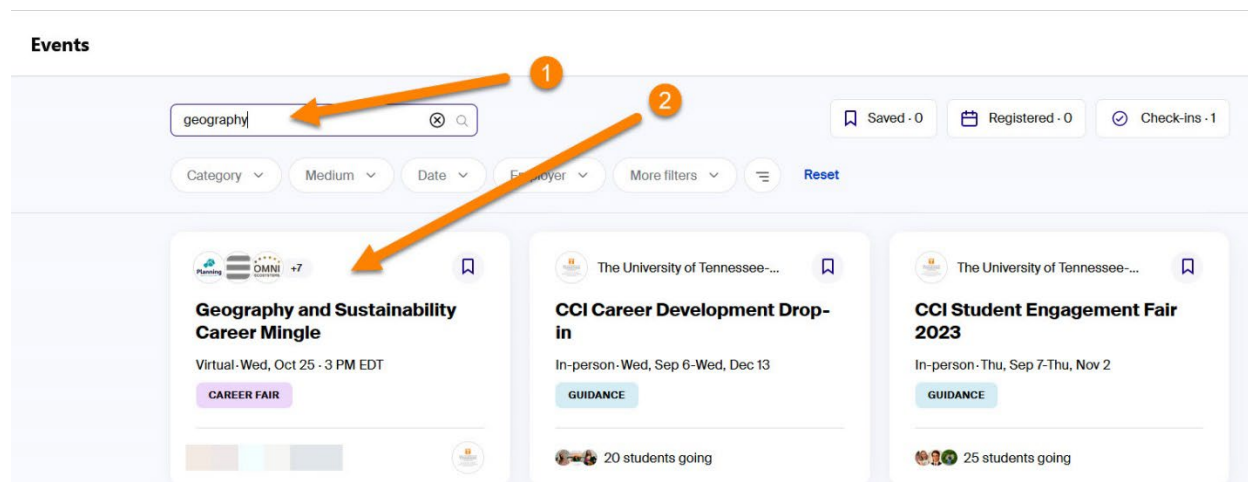
- Alexis Andershock: aandershock@utk.edu
- Michael Camponovo: mcampono@utk.edu

Career Mingle Sign Up Instructions

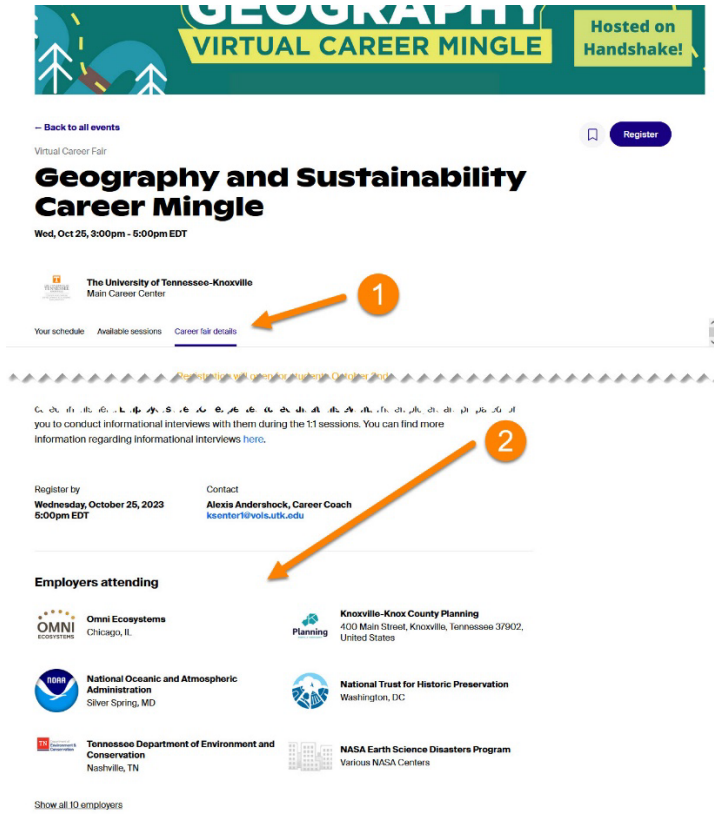
1. Log into [Handshake](#)
2. Click on Attend an event



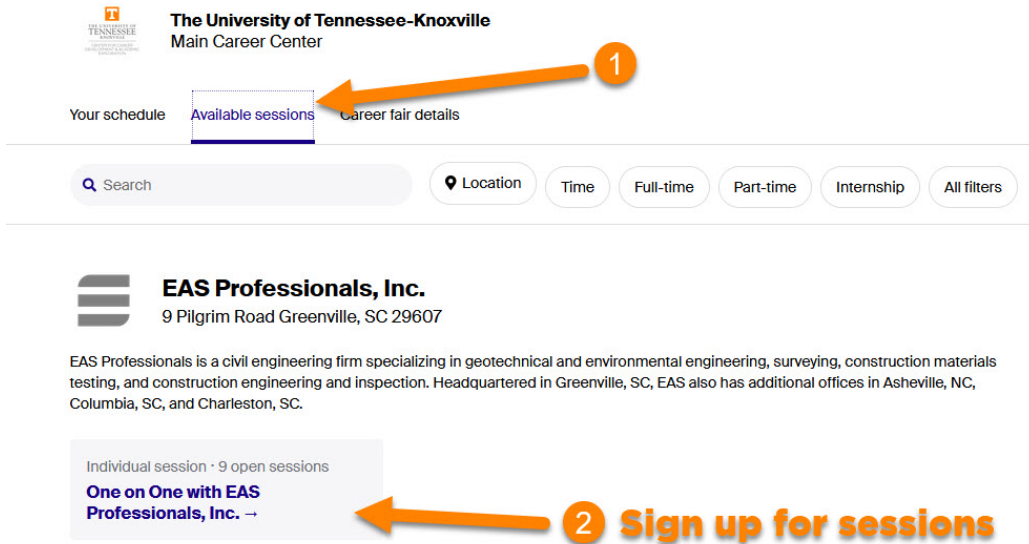
3. Search for “geography” and select the career mingle



4. To learn about the attending organizations and guests
 - a. Click on Career fair details
 - b. Scroll to the bottom and view the attending organizations



- c. Click on an organization to learn more about it
- 5. To sign up for sessions
 - a. Click on Available sessions
 - b. Click on an organization



- c. Select an available time and click on Confirm


1 on 1 session ×

1 on 1 with EAS Professionals, Inc. 1

MT **Mimi Thomas**
Director of Business Development, Charleston

3:00pm EDT 3:10pm EDT 3:20pm EDT
3:40pm EDT 3:50pm EDT 4:20pm EDT

[Show all available times](#)

 **EAS Professionals, Inc.**
9 Pilgrim Road Greenville, SC 29607 www.eas-pro.com

Job types	Employment types	US work authorization
Graduate School, Job	Full time	Will sponsor a work visa and accepts OPT/CPT
Job titles	School years	Attending sessions
None	Masters, Senior	Wednesday, Oct 25, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm EDT

Confirm

