

Personal Board of Directors

TFA CM/Alumni Edition



You'll leave this session with...

- Rationale for building and maintaining your Personal Board of Directors.
- Strategies for identifying and building your board.
- Suggestions for when to leverage and lean on your board.
- Guidance on maintaining your board.

What is a Personal Board of Directors?

A group of individuals you assemble in your mind for the purpose of navigating your career and life in general.



Benefits

Diversity of
Thought

Unfiltered
Opinions &
Trust

Advocates &
Supporters

Access to
Networks

Feedback

Accountability

References
and Referrals

Guidance

When to Leverage your Personal Board?

Resume/Cover
Letter
Feedback

Interview Prep

Networking

Career & Goals Exploration

Strengths/Gaps
Analysis

Offer Negotiation

Who is on your board?

STRATEGIC	LESS STRATEGIC
Current or former colleagues	Family Member or Partner
College mentors	Current Manager
Former managers/coach	Someone with zero context of your industry
Acquaintance with industry expertise	
Peers/friends with expertise	

Building your board

Begin
identifying
your goals,
strengths, &
gaps

Make a List of
Potential
Board
Members

Reach out –
coffee, phone
chat, email
exchange,
etc.

Building your board prep work

Goals/Strengths/Gaps	Potential Board Members
<p>Goals: become an assistant principal or instructional coach in the next 1-2 years.</p> <p>Strengths: great student outcomes, well-respected by colleagues, I get great feedback from my principal, getting my masters in Education this year.</p> <p>Gaps: I haven't interviewed for a job since the corps. I haven't taken on any leadership roles on my campus (though I have some via TFA).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- My MTLD- My Assistant Principal from last year who is at a new school- One of my friends from the corps who is a first year Dean at a charter school- Faculty advisor for Student Government for reviewing my resume- The TFA alumni director in my region

Outreach Best Practices

- ❖ Communicate your goals
- ❖ Make a personal request: a specific ask and WHY you're specifically reaching out to them
- ❖ Provide next step which is easy to act upon (connecting by phone, meeting up in-person)

Dear [name],

I'm writing to you to share a professional update - I've decided to seriously explore moving into school leadership roles within the next year. I plan on starting to apply for roles in the next few months, likely within my district and with other schools and organizations.

You've always been someone in my life who I could count on for honest feedback, and who's been a great thought partner about other big professional moves and decisions. As I explore this new professional opportunity, I was hoping you'd be open to [insert ways they can help - reviewing my resume, processing different opportunities with me, helping me reflect on my value proposition, or connecting me with school leaders and district personnel in your network].

Would you be up for connecting in the next few weeks over dinner/zoom to catch up on life and talk through some next steps I'm planning?

Maintaining and/or evolving your board



Next Steps

- Reflect on your career goals, and your strengths and perceived gaps in positioning yourself to achieve your goal
- Make a list: who in my life can provide me with great feedback, networks, support, or a different perspective when it comes to meeting this goal?
- Reach out