

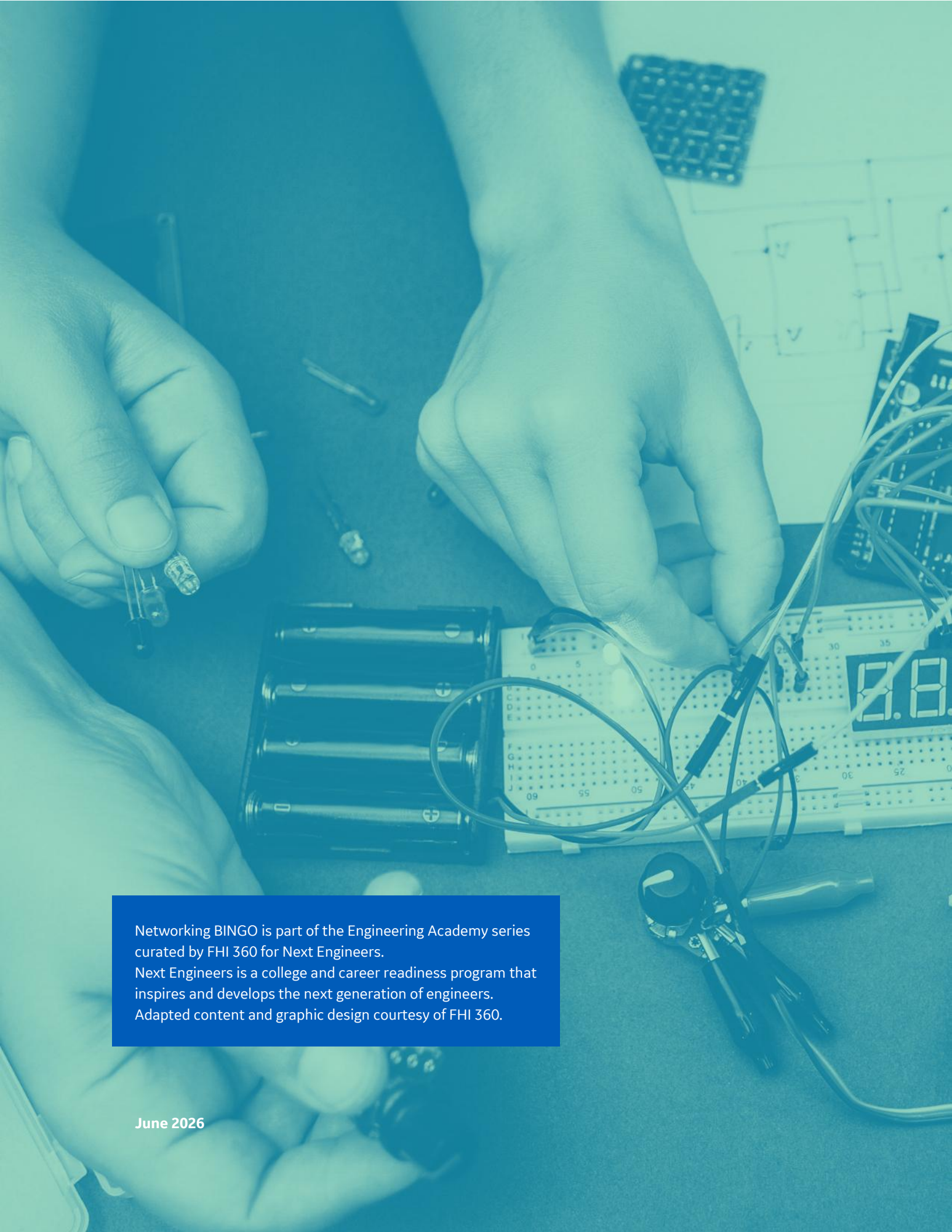
NEXT ENGINEERS



ENGINEERING ACADEMY
Networking BINGO



NEXT ENGINEERS



Networking BINGO is part of the Engineering Academy series curated by FHI 360 for Next Engineers. Next Engineers is a college and career readiness program that inspires and develops the next generation of engineers. Adapted content and graphic design courtesy of FHI 360.

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Networking BINGO

Time	Ages	Cost	Group size
60 minutes	15 to 18	Low	Full group; pairs

Overview

In this activity students will learn about networking and practice their networking skills with peers in an interactive activity.

Learning outcomes

As a result of this activity, students will be able to:

- Understand the value of networking and how it relates to pursuing education and career goals.
- Demonstrate the ability to find common ground with others in order to build connections.

Materials

- Laptop or computer with Internet access and projector
- PowerPoint Presentation: Networking BINGO
- Student Handout: Networking BINGO Card, *1 per student*
- Pencil or pen, *1 per student*
- Stopwatch or timer

Preparation

1. Print copies of the student worksheet for each student or share a digital version.
2. Review the student worksheet and, if necessary, adjust the prompts to fit your community context.

What to do

Introduction (15 minutes)

- **Slides 1-5:** Welcome students and review the different scenarios. For each scenario, ask the group to vote 'yes' or 'no' if they think the scenario is an example of networking. Call on a few of the students to explain why they voted yes or no.
- **Slides 6-7:** Inform the group that all the scenarios are examples of networking and review the definition.
- **Slide 8:** Lead a group discussion about networking using the following prompts:
 - Why do people network?

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

These are the sets of skills necessary for students to succeed in postsecondary education and work settings as determined by universities and employers.

The employability skills addressed by this activity:

- Communication skills
- People skills



KEY VOCABULARY

Networking: The exchange of information between two people for professional or social purposes.



- What skills are needed for networking?
- Are you comfortable networking with other people? Why or why not?
- How can you improve your networking skills?
- **Slide 9:** Wrap up the discussion by demonstrating the importance of networking for students.

Networking BINGO (25-30 minutes)

- Provide each student with a copy of the student handout.
- Allow a few minutes for students to write their responses to each prompt in the boxes on the line marked 'Me'.
- **Slide 10:** Determine how much time you will allow students to network and set the timer (select between 10-15 minutes). The goal is to find another student with the same answer as their own for each box. The first student to find a match and complete all 12 boxes "wins". Review the rules below before starting the timer:
 - Write only one name per box, even if multiple students share the same characteristic.
 - A student's name can only be used to fill one box, even if they have multiple things in common.
 - Students can only talk to one person at a time.
- **Slide 11:** Once the designated networking time is complete, bring the full group back together. Debrief the activity using some of the following prompts:
 - What was the easiest match to find? The most difficult?
 - Were there missed networking opportunities (i.e., students that they did not get to talk to)?
 - Were all of the BINGO items school or work-related?
 - How could these topics have an impact on a job search?

Conclusion (15 minutes)

- Ask students to sit with a partner and discuss the questions at the bottom of the handout:
 - How could people who share your interests help you make good educational and career choices?
 - Who would be the most beneficial connection on your grid? Why?
 - How might a "fun" connection like favorite hobby or animal help in your career development?
 - Can social media help us network? If so, how? Can it hurt our networking opportunities?
- Ask for a few volunteers to share with the group what they have learned about networking from the activity.
- **Slide 12:** Answer any questions students may have as time permits.

This activity is based on **Networking BINGO** created by **Workforce Solutions**. Learn more at <https://www.wrksolutions.com/for-individuals/career-exploration/when-i-grow-up/high-school-grades-9-12>.

