VIDEO TRANSCRIPT - Career Crossroads - Nelson Cooper

*Corresponding transcript to the Career Crossroads video.*

​Below is the transcript to the PNC Flix video *Career Crossroads - Nelson Cooper.* [Read the related story and watch the video](https://newsonline.pnc.com/EmpCen/News/Pages/Career-Crossroads-The-Benefits-of-Getting-Outside-Your-Comfort-Zone.aspx).

My career path, I started at PNC as an intern in 2015, I started in the finance and accounting department and Rob Reilly, CFO world, and the reason I chose that was I was a finance major in college.

I didn't really know all the different things out of banks so said, "Okay, finance and accounting, that sounds about what I'm going to do."

Did the internship and then was afforded opportunity to come back into the Finance and Accounting Development Program.

So that's a one year rotational program.

And I did the four rotations there.

I was placed in a role following that.

And from there I was involved, heavily involved with the African-American EBRG at the time, and through networking, through hosting different events, I was able to meet different people from all across the bank in different lines of business, C&IB included.

AMG, all over, and from there, networking, learning more about what the bank did, learning more about, you know, the different opportunities that exist within PNC is when I kind of started to figure out my path, or where I wanted to go next.

Bring a friend along or go to something where you know at least one of the people there and you can naturally integrate into the conversation with that person, and then you get a little bit more comfortable in that room, and start to be able to speak to different people and learn about different people, because at the end of day, all of us are pretty similar and have similar interests if we're going to a similar event.

So I would think that that's a skill that I've really tried to develop, is networking, and I've done a good job at is trying to, one, understand what I can bring to the conversation to understand what people are looking for in the conversation, having a mutually beneficial networking discussion.

Join an EBRG that you don't directly identify with or you may not understand how you identify with them.

For example, if you're African-American man, maybe join the Asian-American EBRG or if you're a Caucasian woman, join the African-American EBRG because you'll meet people that you may not otherwise interact with on a day to day basis, either in your communities or at work.

And the cool thing about all the EBRGs, particularly, in the markets where there's larger hubs, is there are so many people -- there's thousands of members of these EBRGs, from some people

that are working in risk, to people working in finance, to people working in technology, all over the bank.

And you may find something, or hear about a certain type of job or challenge someone someone's trying to tackle that you would have never even thought of or even knew PNC did.

PNC does a really good job of promoting diversity inclusion and giving opportunities through --

there's the career connections through the EBRGs, through the different things, for those people from the underrepresented groups to get involved and get engaged and maybe move into roles

they didn't think were possible.

So I really do think that it's important when those opportunities arise, when there are opportunities through the EBRGs, to network with leaders in different businesses where you may not see people that look like you.