

# Partners in Prevention Coalition Toolkit

## Step 1 Coffee Talk: Conversation Topics to Help with Coalition Building

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One of the best ways to build confidence in your coalition is to build relationships with your potential (or existing) coalition members through individual interactions. Ask colleagues to grab a cup of coffee or take a walk on campus and chat about their interests, the coalition, etc. Here are some suggested topics for the conversation:

**Ask your colleague about their previous work** and what brought them to the campus.

- If your colleague has worked at another campus, ask them to share with you about how they collaborated with the AOD/mental health colleagues at their previous campus.
- If your colleague is new to higher education, ask what drew them. Offer to answer any questions about the institution or working in higher ed in general.

**Ask them about how they believe alcohol, drugs, mental health, violence, etc. affect their work.** Listen attentively and even if you disagree, make note of their perspective.

**Get to know them on a personal level;** ask about interests, their friends/family, etc. and share a bit about yourself.

**Ask your colleague about their career aspirations.** The person may have interest in positions on campus or in higher education for which participation in the coalition may be helpful to their work.

**Share your favorite accomplishment** related to health and well-being and ask your colleague to do the same!

**Tell your colleague about your work and introduce the coalition.** Share its goals/focus and any other important details; ask them for their thoughts and feedback.

**Listen attentively for win-win situations.** Are there ways their membership would benefit the coalition? Are there things coalition membership would provide to them (connections on campus, training and professional development, etc.)?

**Feel free to brainstorm other topics, but remember to let the conversation flow freely.**

Overall it's important to make that connection and open the door for further conversations and collaboration.