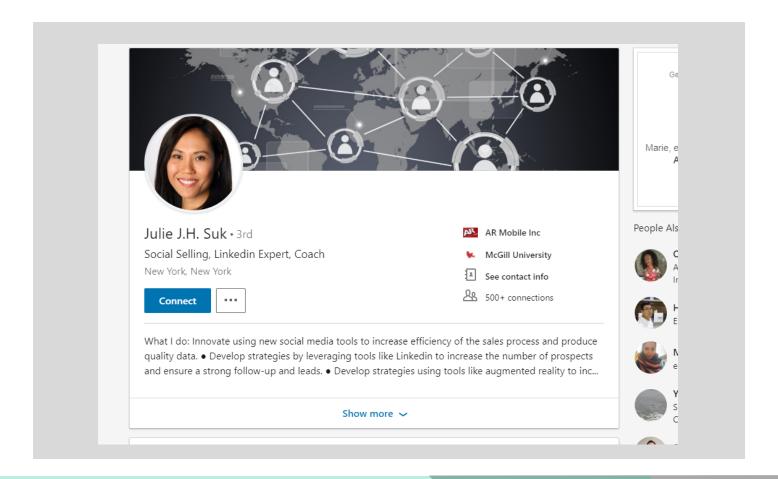
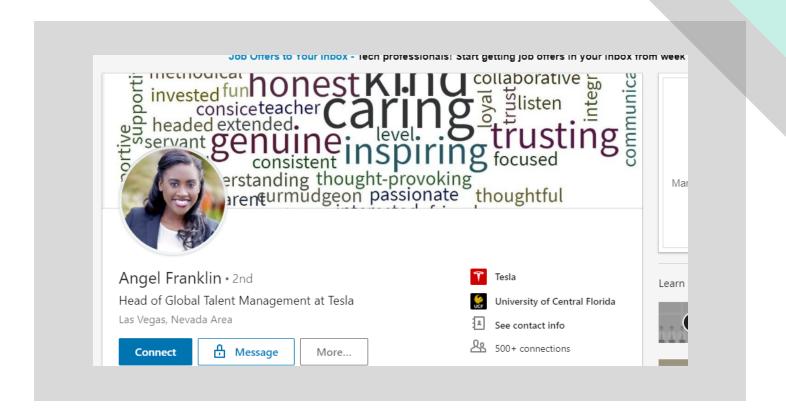
# 4 Key Ways to Optimize Your LinkedIn

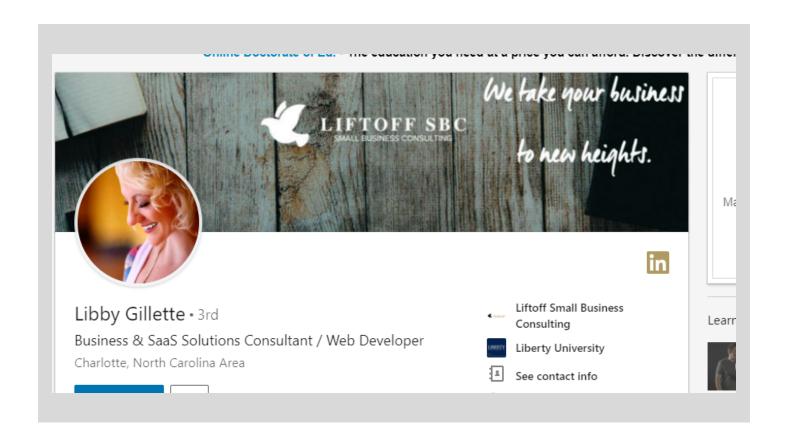
One of the cornerstones of taking charge of your career and business is how you present yourself. The old way was having a pristine resume at the ready. Now, the resume has been trumped by the LinkedIn profile. This isn't just a static list of your accomplishments anymore. Your LinkedIn page is a living extension of who you are in the marketplace. Use this guide to finally get your LinkedIn profile popping so you can start attracting new opportunities and networking in your sleep.

### **GREAT IMAGES**

The most memorable parts of your profile is your profile picture. This is your first impression to most recruiters, other business owners, and potential clients. Pick a high resolution professional looking headshot that you can use across all of your social media so that people will recognize the image no matter where they are searching for you. The close the shot, the better. Combine that with a stylish banner that resonates with your brand or industry, and you are on your way with creating some lasting first impressions. Here are a few that I love.



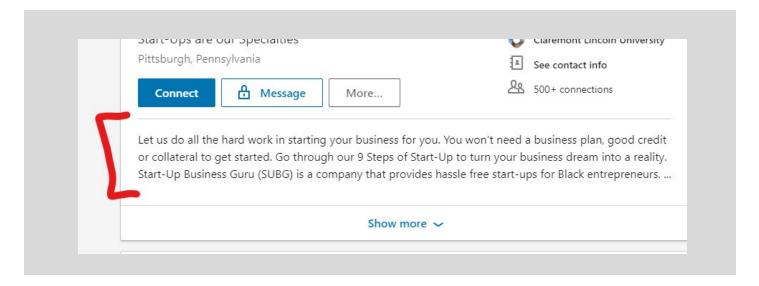


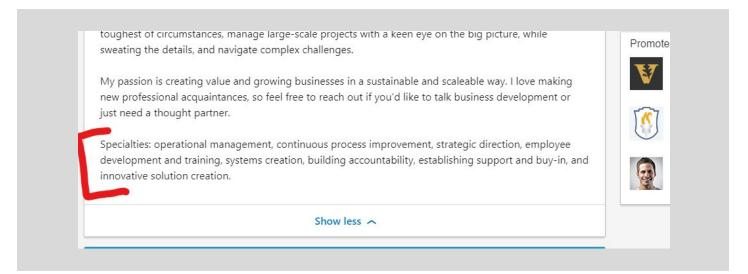


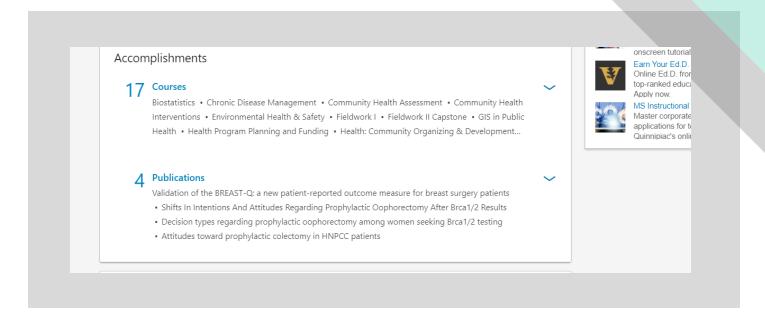
#### WORD PLAY

Two things on profile copy. One: you have an executive summary section to write long form copy about your business, mission and carer objectives, but only the first 38 words are visible when someone first comes across your profile. This is a teaser before they click "see full profile". Entice and with a concise description of your products and services in those first 38 words.

Two: LinkedIn is an online database which means all SEO rules apply. Think about what keywords you need on your profile page so folks can find you for what you do and what they are looking for. Bake them into your long form exec summary or list them as "specialties" in a structured fashion at the end of your summary. Either way, you will still come up in search based on those words being in your profile. Put all your accomplishments and awards on your LinkedIn too. Your affiliations and accolades (keywords) are tagged to you as well.



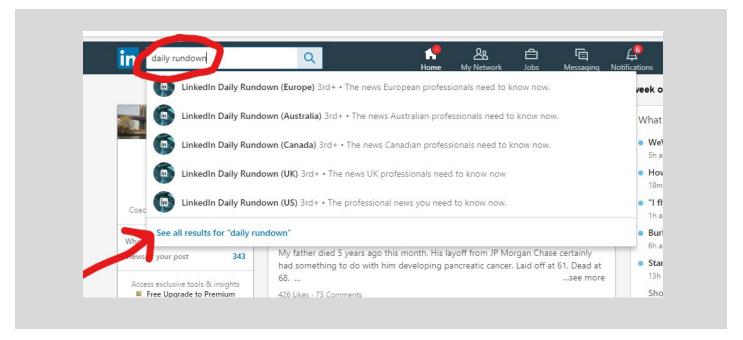


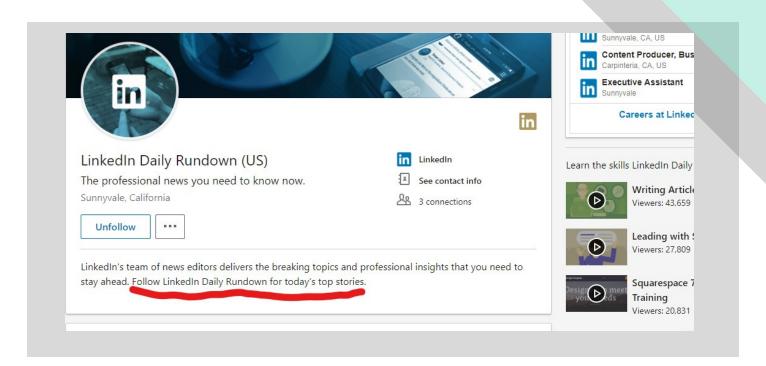


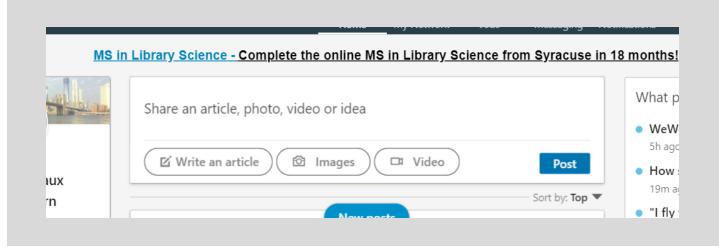
## TAKE ACTION AND CONVERSE

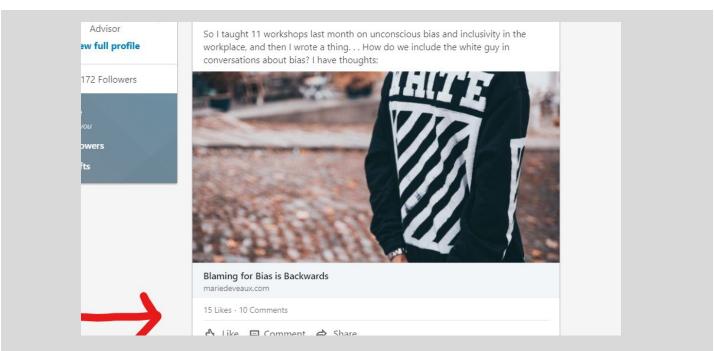
To activate a network you have to converse. You can stay abreast of what's going on in your industry by following influencers (people and organizations) in your field. Subscribing to newsletters or feeds like "The Daily Rundown" can help you keep up with regular updates in the world of work. This provides you with content you can easily share and comment on.

Posting and sharing relevant work experience or knowledge is a great way to stay relevant in the minds of others. Use the "write an article" feature to repost your own new, or existing content. Comment on other content and remember to respond to comments on your posts as well to keep engagement up.









## **KEEP GOING**

Grow your network by importing your email contacts (all add email addresses) and requesting connections and links. You can also bolster your profile by requesting recommendations and recommending others. Provide endorsements when the alerts come up on your home screen and soon others will be returning the favor, and visiting your profile to do it. Your 1st degree network will expose you to their network (2nd and 3rd degree). When people reach out, start a conversation through messaging and if there's synergy, set up a chat over VC or a cup of caffeine!

