

**Expanding REACH**  
**Enhancing IMPACT**  
**Advancing EQUITY**



**June 25-27, 2019**  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**#QRIS2019**

## **BUILD Connections**

Every year, the QRIS meeting gets bigger and better, offering more innovative ideas, expert speakers, and a wealth of experience from hundreds of attendees. We enjoy welcoming old friends to the conference but also are thrilled to host many first-timers. In fact, more than a third of participants each year are new to the meeting.

As attendance grows each year, however, it can be challenging to meet people. One first-time attendee last year said it would be great “for those of us not as well-connected to meet others in that same situation” and that she would love to do so in a “more guided way.” We also have been told that even old-timers to the conference can feel challenged when it comes to connecting with others. One shared, “The QRIS conference is a highlight of my year...I like the idea of making [a way to connect] part of the registration process so communication and planning can begin before the conference begins.”

We heard you!

Based on this feedback, we are excited to introduce a new voluntary program called **BUILD Connections**. Are you new to the conference, eager to get connected, and want to help others connect too? Or are you a long-time QRIS meeting attendee who would like to help others ease in and get connected? Do you want to be a member of one of these groups? We need you to help us build connections at QRIS 2019. Be a **BUILD Connections Coordinator** or a **BUILD Connections Group Member**!

### **What does being a BUILD Connections Coordinator entail?**

We will provide you with contact information for a group of five to eight attendees prior to the conference. You will email them or connect with them on the conference app to get a conversation going. From there, the group can decide how to proceed. You can, for example, plan to sit together at the opening plenary or have breakfast or lunch together. You can discuss what sessions look most useful to you and share notes from the sessions you attend.

This is all completely voluntary and intended to be helpful but informal. Our only goal is to make everyone feel welcome and ensure the meeting experience is a pleasant one for all. BUILD Connections Coordinators will be presented with a small gift as thank you for volunteering their time and effort.

### **How do I volunteer to be a BUILD Connections Coordinator or sign up to be in a group?**

Simply check the box on the registration form to participate as either a Coordinator or Group Member. As a Group Member, your information will be provided to a Coordinator who will reach out to you prior to the conference to help make your experience a great one!

**Questions? Contact [jbender@buildinitiative.org](mailto:jbender@buildinitiative.org)**