1. Non Profits
Each state has a nonprofit association that generally offers great conferences and training. Nonprofit professionals do almost all their work in partnership and if you know more about their missions you will be able to envision more robust partnerships. Find yours or a neighboring state’s association at: https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/find-your-state-association

2. Economic Development
Attend a local, regional or statewide economic development conference. Google to find your local economic development organization (or contact your county commissioners’ office) to inquire about the one that might be most helpful to you. If your local ED folks will be attending meet up with them ahead of time and then ask them to introduce you around. Outdoor Recreation is a HOT topic right now so they will love to hear from their local recpros! https://www.eda.gov/resources/national-economic-development-organization.htm

3. Heath and Wellness
Each hospital generally has an associated nonprofit foundation supporting the hospital in the community and they’re easy to find on the hospital web page. Find one near you and go visit with them and hear their recommendations for learning opportunities. Also you can use this site to contact and find out the hospital foundations in your state. https://www.ahp.org. Most counties and states have public health offices which is another opportunity for networking. https://www.naccho.org

4. Philanthropy
becoming more adept at raising funds is a great skill to have so you can support partnerships. It seems that once folks do get together they want to do something that requires funding! There are excellent programs offered on how to write grants or fundraise in other ways. Even if you won’t be doing this work yourself, it is important to understand the operating environment where fundraising takes place. Consult with your local community foundation to get started. Find yours at: https://www.cof.org/community-foundation-locator. Another great way to move partnership work forward is to increase grant writing skills. You could even host a training for a number of local organizations to become better grant and proposal writers right along with you. A good resource is The Grantsmanship Center, among others. https://www.tgci.com/

5. Tourism
Generally state offices of tourism offer excellent annual conferences where tourism organizations throughout the state gather, update each other, and learn. Each state typically also includes their Destination Management Organizations and Tourism Resource Centers. You can reach them directly on https://wwwvisitflorida.com. All in tourism seems to revolve around partnering so get on in there! There are generally a few opportunities to obtain funding from offices of tourism as well. Most states also have something akin to a ‘travel region’ Call the one you are part of and explore engagement opportunities. Understanding what tourism folks are working on and planning for offers great insights into how to organized partnerships.

6. Placemaking
For the last several years the placemaking movement has become very large everywhere. Combing community development, planning and design, the arts, healthy communities, well-being and so much more, placemaking is a giant partnering opportunity at neighborhood and community levels. Placemaking conferences are energetic and plentiful. To learn more: Project for Public Spaces at https://www.pps.org, Community Builders at https://CommunityBuilders.org, the City Parks Alliance at https://www.cityparksalliance.org/action-center/the-field-guide-for-parks-and-creative-placemaking,

7. Arts & Culture
Each state has an Arts Council and a Humanities Council. You may also have local councils that can help you understand the best ways to encourage arts partners to the table. At the federal level, check out the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities at www.arts.gov and www.neh.gov. You’ll also want to understand the local landscape, many communities have arts councils. On the nonprofit side, explore the National Trust for Historic Preservation at www.savingplaces.org as well as State Historic Preservation Offices, begin at http://nchp.org.

8. Education
Helping people to understand and appreciate the outdoors and its natural, historical and cultural relevance involves active engagement with educators who teach and train the next generation of outdoor recreation enthusiasts. Are you actively engaged at all grade levels with your community of educators? Do you understand their education standards so that your programs can be meaningful to them? Do your environmental educators need some updating in strategies to educate visitors on issues affecting the outdoors. https://www.neefusa.org/ and www.learningwithnature.org/engineering-curricula/teacher-training/

9. Federal & State Public Land Managers
Many recpros find themselves with a government partner or non profit partner on their lands. This is a good thing but can be complicated by a lack of understanding of partner’s organizational structure and funding mechanisms. The better you understand the government organizations, the more able and attractive partners you will be to them. http://www.publiclandsalliance.org. What about taking part in a statewide outdoor recreation coalition which multiple partners attend? http://www.calroundtable.org

10. Publications, Memberships & Webinars
You could also use your scholarship to become a member of several professional organizations and or to subscribe to publications.Perhaps SORP at www.recpro.org, American Trails at www.americantrails.org, the National Association of State and Federal Public Land Managers at https://www.interpnet.com/ NPPA at www.npma.org or the professional association of a partner so you can learn about their world. What about the Center for Diversity and the Environment. https://www.cdeinspires.org/ or the National Coalition Building Institute. https://ncbi.org/. Consider attending a series of webinars hosted by partner organizations about topics that are of interest to both recpros and potential partners. Series of webinars hosted by a variety of groups. Here’s an example: http://www.americantrails.org/ee/index.php/webinars

Apply for the Scholarship at: https://www.recpro.org/christopher-k-jarvi-scholarship