



Updates & News: Spring 2013

Greetings from the Center of Excellence for Information and Computing Technology (coeforict.org). We have just completed our 2013-2014 work plan with a number of new and exciting initiatives, events, services, and research springing your way this summer and into 2014. In the meantime we have some news and updates related to a few things that have been completed as well as an upcoming event that we are hoping your college can attend.

What's New?

Results from the March 2013 IT Skills Gap Forum



The Center of Excellence for Information and Computing Technology held an IT Skills Gap Forum on Friday, March 22, 2013 at Bellevue College. 30 IT industry professionals were in attendance for a Center presentation as well as spending 1.5 hours answering a series of questions in smaller focus groups. The purpose of this meeting was to obtain “real time” information from business and industry leaders about expected job growth trends over the next three to five years and to discuss workforce skills gaps that make filling job vacancies difficult for employers within the industry.

The IT Professionals completed an IT Skills Gap Forum questionnaire prior to the event. The Center in addition to asking for some general employment data (expected hiring, areas of employment where it was difficult to find employees, etc.) asked some additional and specific questions about specific technical knowledge and skills (including soft) that were deemed important and in high demand, as well as asking what new technological developments might create new or unanticipated IT career pathways.

The Center then created a [series of documents](#), including a “state of the industry” PPT, as well as the results from the questionnaire and the focus group Q&A to allow for a comprehensive look (with additional resource data imported) of how the skills gap and emerging trends in the technology sector might impact your college’s IT programs. Upon review of this data, we hope your college might find it helpful in changing existing degrees/certificates or developing new IT programs of study.

You are invited to...

Pathways to IT Applied Baccalaureate Degrees for WA State Students Summit



As you are aware Washington State is not producing enough Information Technology (IT) workers. With the community and technical college now able to offer four-year applied baccalaureates to our state’s students, we have a unique moment to create a cohesive process for coordinating our efforts, sharing best practices, and unifying in order to address the shortage of work-ready IT four-year graduates. Ms. Sigl succinctly summarizes below this call to action for all of our state’s IT educators.

Our economy has been transformed, with tech now the state’s major economic driver. The Washington Research Council reports that technology-related employment increased **119 percent** over the past two decades, while the underlying state economy grew only 14 percent. The IT sector created two-thirds of Washington’s job growth and more than half of employee-compensation growth over that time. It now represents 27 percent of all jobs in the state. **Highly skilled employees are important for all employers, but they’re the lifeblood of high-tech.**

Susan Sigl is the president and CEO of the Washington Technology Industry Association.

To address this increasing demand for a skilled workforce, the Center of Excellence for Information and Computing Technology is holding a one-day IT Futures Summit: *Pathways to IT Applied Baccalaureate Degrees for Washington State Students*, including working with *IT Programs of Study & Common Courses* on **Friday, June 7, 2013** at Microsoft’s Conference Center. We are [inviting](#) each Washington State Community and Technical College to bring a team of up to four individuals including the information technology division dean or workforce dean, program chair and two IT faculty (and, if you have a IT baccalaureate manager/advisor, please include them) to the summit. All travel expenditures (hotel, per diem outside of the breakfast and lunch provided at the summit, and mileage) will be covered by Center funding.

Participants will:

- Find out about recent state initiatives in developing common courses and core IT competencies
- Learn about current and proposed IT applied baccalaureate degrees in Washington State community and technical colleges (CTC).

- Hear industry professional's perspectives on CTC pathways to applied baccalaureate degrees.
- Think about course and levels of preparedness (including courses that prepare students for a rigorous IT Program of Study, for example tech prep courses) that secondary students should be encouraged to take and how K-12 might find courses that articulate or are accepted for program credit at a CTC.

Each Workforce Education Council Administrator has been invited to send a team to represent their college's IT program, including those who either currently or will be offering IT applied baccalaureate degrees. The agenda for the day can be viewed [here](#). **Many of you are already attending, so this is a reminder for those colleges who have not yet registered.**

Video Available for Viewing from the April 17, 2013 Careers in IT: The Real Story



Careers in IT: The Real Story took place on Wednesday, April 17, 2013, in the Carlson Theater at Bellevue College with over 200 students and educators in attendance.

If you missed this year's event, we [captured the presentations of the keynote, the IT industry panel, and a behind the scenes look at Careers in IT](#).

You can watch the keynote Peli de Halluex, a Senior Software Developer/Researcher/Engineer for Microsoft Research talk about mobile application development and how you don't need a PC to develop an application... Also, you can listen to the IT industry professional panelists, and hear what they have to say about computer engineering, working for Microsoft, the rewards and challenges of juggling work, college, and internships, as well as how IT professionals make decisions using data visualization, and more...

About Careers in IT: The Real Story Are your students curious about Information Technology (IT) or do they think IT is only for geeks? Do they think offshore outsourcing has eliminated all high paying technology jobs in the United States? Do your students believe they don't have the computer skills, technical competence or aptitude to do well in the information technology sector? Tell them to think again! Note: Clock hours are available for our K-12 educators. Look for registration information for the April 16, 2014 Careers in IT sometime in January 2014.

Look for more news and updates coming your way in Summer 2013!

Contact the Center at maureen.majury@bellevuecollege.edu with news you want to share or questions.