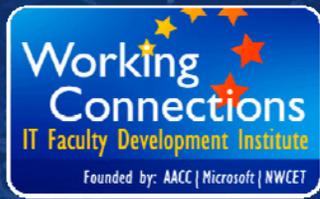**Teaching Soft Skills (2 tables)**

What soft skills do you think most students are most lacking and why?

* Interpersonal skills, face-to-face communication, teamwork, "working together," personal care (dress and hygiene), language, kindness, time management, customer service, critical thinking.

* Self-discipline, work ethic, proper work attire, writing skills – writing to appropriate audience, research skills, knowing when to ask questions.

What are the most effective ways to teach soft skills?

* Not allowing "texting" language in homework, tests, or in the classroom. Having a project that mimics a business environment. Defining soft skill with students and have rules in place. Set deadline and stick to them.

* Group work is important, require an ethics class, role playing, presentations by students.

Getting Business and Industry Involved (3 tables)

How do you involve your local business and industry leaders?

* 1, Working on implementing a Competency Based Education (CBE) that we market to industry partners (employers) to put their employee into the program to build skills at student's pace and customized to their current competency. 2, Use Advisory Board that is made up of industry representatives to share their knowledge. 3, Have employers teach onsite. 4, Speaker series. 5, Recognition in newspaper and local magazines.

* Call or email, grad workshops, advisory board, job fair, invite vendors, committees, user groups, interships, Daycum.

* Cold calls, stay in contact, BILT quarterly meeting, collaborative webinar meetings, tap your adjunct faculty for leads, meeting can be held via phone, open house for industry and/or students, tap into your technology user groups.

What are the benefits to them in working with you – that is, how do you sell them on getting involved?

* 1, Stronger curriculum based on industry requests. 2, Offer fast "turnaround" of employees back to the job with updated skills.

* Free food, train employees, brainwash future customers by introducing to products, credit for committee service, certificate for participation.

* Good employees, chance to contribute to their community, have dedicated business/industry members talk to their contacts.
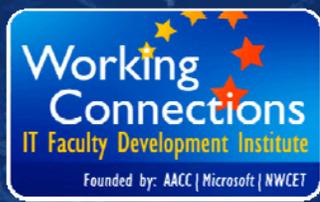
Value of Student IT Portfolios (2 tables)

What is the most effective way to help your students build a portfolio?

* Do the projects and document the project throughout their education at the college. Write up about internship and other related work. Club activities. Certification training. Competitions that they have participated in. Community service activities. Professional certifications.

* Give assignments that build the portfolio, use of electronica tools, external evaluators – student evaluation, use of teamwork.

What are the essential elements of a good portfolio and why?

* Two areas: content and presentation. Education, certifications, awards, internships, projects.

* Good presentation, concise, good writing skills.
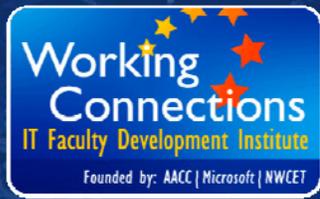
Building a Network Lab (4 tables)

What are the biggest challenges to assembling a lab and how are those best overcome?

* 1, Funding/grants, partners. 2, SME. 3, Support/upgrading. Support from cabinet chair and dean.

* Money, space, time, IT department pushback, explaining to administration the value of the labs to our students and programs, approval process/time horizon/vendor flexibility, requirements for continuous upgrades, funding structure, figuring out a way to buy from eBay. To overcome these: get a champion from admin services, money – grants and donations, proactive, persistence.

* Funding overcome by fees and seeking donations. Space overcome by online. Time overcome by using students as lab assistance. Students that are not invested?

* Challenges: planning, funding for equipment and set-up, researching and procuring equipment, documentation. Overcoming: business proposal; funds from donors, partnerships, alumni, grants; grant management.

What are some of the more unusual or unorthodox strategies you've used to build a lab?

* Donated equipment, eBay, by the donation regulations, borrowing resources, labor – meet up groups, interns.

* Encroachment/creeping labs, recommend students for IT positions, work closely with other departments on campus to share resources and technologies, do it yourself… and don't always ask for permission, horse trading, business partnerships/name labs are always good to use, look for smaller grants, repurpose campus technology when the institution replaces it.

* Incorporating legacy equipment. Online: sending PCs and equipment to the student to repair.

* Scavenging equipment from other colleges, outsourcing from other vendors.

Brainstorming Future Working Connections Topics (3 tables)

What topics would like to see covered at future Working Connections?

* Mobile Security (web and mobile, not server/network), RFID-NF security, iOS Swift.

* Top four: Red Hat (advanced Linux), Swift (Apple), cryptography/forensics, HTML5 /Javascript. Also: SQL, Hadoop, Cloud+, Python, Ruby on Rails, IT project management, AWS, game development, Azure.

* Nexxus, virtual networking, vSphere; cross platform app design – Corona, Phoneaap, Zamarin; Security!, Juniper Networks, Python, Open Source, Puppet Labs – config mamagement tool, mobile device management and Use III; Unity application, CLi, pen testing, Adobe, VoIP, Linux Essentials, project management, Rapsberry Pi, Azure, Intro to Linux Open Stack, PowerShell, Blener, VDK.

Are there shorter topics you'd like to see covered that maybe wouldn't be enough to fill an entire multi-day track?

* More Linux (advanced installation and configuration, add GUI applications, server administration), dealing with technology change strategies – keeping up to date from professor point of view.

* Sharepoint, app publishing (iTunes, Play, Amazon, Windows), Phonegap/Adobe build.

* Instructor presentation skills, course design, best practice teaching methods for IT, adding images to IT, teaching technology, academic alliances, IT teaching methodology – coping with change in the classroom, teaching what you don't know (Therese Huston reference), creating positive change in IT academia, adding "jazz" to online IT classes.