NCSU / IBM Partnership

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Also (full disclosure), NCSU - Alumni, Husband, Parent, Faculty
Exec Sponsor for NCSU/IBM Pathfinder and DiscoverE Programs
General Information

**Hiring:**
- 2012: 141
- 2013: 175*
- 2014: 122
- 2015: 106
- TOTAL: 544

* IBM named 2013 Recruiter of the Year by the NC State Poole College of Management

**Alumni:**
- Employees: 760
- Executives: 31

**Other:**
- Mentors, Faculty, Parents

**Partnership:**
- Extreme Red
- SUR Hardware Awards / Faculty Awards / PhD Fellowships (since 1984) + IBM Donations
- Major partners:
  - College of Engineering
  - College of Management
  - College of Education / Friday Institute
- Strategic Projects
  - Cloud Virtual Computing Lab
  - vCentennial and Internet2 Research
- Big Data on PowerLinux, NexGen IT, IAA, SOSI, FREEDM
- IBM@edu: NCSU Education Collaboration Center
- Entrepelooza
- NCSU/IBM Pathfinder Mentoring Program
Highlighted Activities

**Virtual Computing Lab**
- VCL project development started in 2003
- NCSU production use started in 2004
- Support for both HPC & non-HPC workloads
- VCL available to 30,000+ NCSU student and faculty, and 250,000 plus in NC
- Has utilized multiple IBM products, including the BladeCenter initially with over 2000 blades
- Delivers over 460,000 CPU hours to general reservations (desktops, sub-clouds, classroom, etc.) annually, and over 7,000,000 HPC CPU hours.
- Provided IBM developers access to evaluate design and performance under real workload conditions
- Other products included later, such as POWER Systems, Spectrum Products, etc.

**NCSU/ IBM Education Collaboration Center**
- Will be the place where students, faculty and IBM experts can go to collaborate on projects while using all of the products and service that IBM has to offer.
- “We seek to collaborate with NC State (and academia generally) on solutions that will make a difference in the world and to absorb the creativity and energy from the students as we transform IBM development,” IBM NC Senior State Executive Fran O’Sullivan said.
- “The new IBM Education Collaboration Center on Centennial Campus is especially exciting as it builds upon the longstanding R&D collaborations between IBM and NC State,” associate vice chancellor Dennis Kekas said. “It will enable a new level of student-centric engagement to help solve tomorrow’s grand challenges.”
Objectives of NCSU / IBM Pathfinder Mentoring Program

- Provide students some insight into professional life to better prepare themselves while at school
- Provide IBM insight into potential Early Professional Hire candidates
- Professionals meet with students approximately monthly to discuss career experiences, technical job trends, answer questions, provide insight to engineering profession
- One school year duration - the student and advisor can continue the relationship longer if they choose
- Visits and lab tours to give students a view of what goes on at IBM
- Two-way feedback - hear from student how to improve the program

https://www.ibm.ncsu.edu/pathfinder
2016–2017 Activities

- Student Organization Presentations at NC State
  - August 15 – Technical Communications SIGDOC
  - August 23 – Supply Chain students
  - August 25 – Engineering School Welcome Back Bash
  - August 30 – Business School IT Club
  - September 7 – AISES, NSBE, SHPE, WiCs, SWE Meeting
  - September 8 – Jenkins Graduate School of Business students
  - September 12 – Engineers Council
  - September – NC State College of Design (Industrial and Graphics)

- Meet Your Mentor at NC State/Networking Event (September 28, 29)
- One-on-one meetings between students and advisors
- Resume Session (October)
- IBM Site Visit (October)
- Early Career Panel Discussion (November)
- Technical Speaker (November)
- Job Shadow Month (January)
- IBM Site Visit (January)
- Professional Development Speaker (January)
- Executive Career Panel Discussion (January)
- Mock Interview Session (February 16, 17)
- Technical Speaker or Team Event (March)
Interactive Group Events Added to Mentoring Experience

- Mock Interview
- Design Studio Workshop/Tour
- Data Center Tour
- How to Stand out at a Career Fair
- BlueMix/BlockChain
- Exec Career Panel
- Meet Your Mentor
- 1x1 Mentoring
Participation from Students Highest in Program History

Participants per Year

Number of Participants

Program Year

2004-2005
2005-2006
2006-2007
2007-2008
2008-2009
2009-2010
2010-2011
2011-2012
2012-2013
2013-2014
2014-2015
2015-2016
2016-2017

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Who the Pathfinder Mentoring Program is For?

NCSU students and IBM professionals within the disciplines of:

- Hardware Engineering
  - Electrical, Mechanical, etc.
- Software Engineering
  - Computer Science, Computer Engineering, etc.
- Technical Communications
  - Technical Writers, Web designers, etc.
- Human Factors
- Graphic and New Media Design
  - Graphic, Animation, New Media, etc.
- Industrial Design
- Supply Chain
- Business/MBA
What did students enjoy the most about the program? (49 comments)

Mentor +5
- Advice from a professional in my field +9
- Regular interactions +4
- 1x1 face-to-face meetings +5
- Networking

Program
- Inspiration from others in the program +2

IBMers +3
- Responsibilities of a manager
- Understanding projects from customer requirements through delivery +1
- Learning about IBM +1

The Industry
- Industry knowledge +1

Events +3
- Resume Session +1
- Mock Interview +8
- BlueMix/Blockchain
- Executive Panel +2
- Early Career Panel
- Design Thinking Workshop +1
- Job Shadowing +1
- Leadership Data Center