IT @ EICC Newsletter
Eastern Iowa Community Colleges

THE Community's College

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Education & Resources For In-Demand Jobs

IT Apprenticeships A "Win Win" for Students & Employers

Registered apprenticeships combine the concepts of on–the-job training, mentoring, and classroom instruction. Employers can work with EICC staff to design an apprenticeship that meets their business needs and Department of Labor requirements.

Establishing Registered IT Apprenticeships is a grant deliverable for the U.S. Department of Labor IHUM grant. This $15 million grant is part of the larger federal initiative called Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT). IHUM consists of IT, Health, Utilities, and Manufacturing – its external presence is known as Enhance Iowa, creating signature programs to enhance Iowa's workforce.

Employer Benefits - Training costs are reduced and funding may be available to offset tuition/wages. Latest certifications, skill upgrading. Improve employee retention. Set goals for current employees – create a professional development plan. Resolve issue of hard to place positions. New & existing employees eligible.

Employee/Student Benefits - Learn and Earn! Training costs may be paid for. Structured on-the-job training and classroom instruction. Wages increase as training milestones are reached. Includes quality benefits from employer like medical insurance, retirement plans and vacation days.

Contact Lori Walljasper (lwalljasper@eicc.edu) or Christine Powers (cpowers@eicc.edu) 563-336-3317 to arrange an informational meeting.

Students Compete at The 2017 AITP National Collegiate Conference and

The convention on April 6-9th in St. Louis consisted of three separate events, a job fair, breakout sessions, and skills competitions. Companies at the job fair included State Farm, Progressive Insurance, USAA, IBM System Z, Herzog, WraySec, Cerner, U.S. Department of State, etc. The panels/breakout sessions that were offered were very informative. "My favorite was Agile, Agile, Everywhere!", shared local chapter president Zach Bergman. At this session they discussed different project management techniques specifically Scrum and Kanban. The competitions were challenging. The last activity students participated in was the ICCP certification exam. EICC student Uriah Brock, was recognized for getting the 3rd highest score on the test out of ~400 conference attendees.
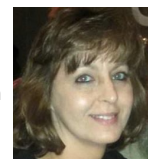
Way to go!

Uriah

Association for Information Technology Professionals

Update by Raine Morford, faculty Advisor

This year's conference was a hit to say the least. We took 7 students, and competed in 5 competitions. All 7 students also took the ICCP certification tests. Three students passed and earned an Information System Analyst certification, Zach Bergman, Kevin Glowacki, and Uriah Brock.

Our students did very well against many 4 year schools in competition. They had wonderful opportunities to network with other IT students and professional AITP members. There was a job fair where students were able to hand out resumes as well as get a feel for what some of the big name companies are looking for in an employee. There were informative breakout sessions and as always, the food and door prizes were was amazing.

We also found out some very big news at the NCC this year. CompTia has bought AITP. This means big changes for AITP as we know it, some good, some maybe not so good. One great thing is student membership is now free. As well as 10% off all CompTia certification tests for students. There will also be a portal on the website (coming soon) for students to use to look for jobs as well as get help with resumes. The down side is as of right now there will be no more NCC. They have said there will be something

Students Find Spring Tour de IT Experience Invaluable

The tour was great! Tour de IT gives students a chance to see IT from a business perspective. We get to see a day in the life of an IT employee, and of course it varies from company-to-company! One thing that surprised me is, minus Von Maur, the dress was fairly casual at both Redstone and Fidlar. This is something that I imagine wouldn't have been the case 10-20 years ago. From the tour I gained perspective on company's hiring processes, and tips to help you get your foot in the door and look good on paper. I want to get IT certifications to help my resume stand out from other people.

After the tour I came out less intimidated and hopeful of acquiring a career in the IT field. Getting the opportunity to go behind the

Jared Goetzman

scenes at each business and see some of the software/hardware the company employees work with was really cool!

It was an incredible experience to be able to visit various IT related companies. Our first stop at Redstone Content Solutions was very interesting. We were able to learn about their company and the international business that they do, they went through a day in the life of a developer there. We then had the chance to listen to how they interview potential employees, which was invaluable to hear firsthand what an IT employer is looking for. Then we had a chance to ask questions of one of the owners and gain valuable insight. We toured the Von Maur corporate headquarters and saw a lot of the inner workings of a large company. We visited their server room and were able to sit down and ask questions of 4 high level IT managers, extremely informative. Our final stop was

Fidlar Technologies, a local business that I've seen but didn't know what they

Tim Behrens

did. We went in and listened to multiple people speak about their company and the work that they do all over the country. Their Director of Human Resources spoke and gave us a great handout with some tips on how to handle yourself before, during and after an interview. We toured their facility and learned a lot about the software they develop.

Touring these 3 businesses showed us a great selection of different companies and how they operate. Von Maur is very buttoned up and professional, where you have to wear a shirt and tie every day, and Fidlar was much more relaxed in their wardrobe and office setting. This was an incredible experience that I learned so much from and I am really looking forward to the next Tour de IT this summer.

Are you Certifiable? Yes you are!!!

In some of our classes, students will take the *Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA)* exams as part of their final exam process. Our instructors are Certiport proctors who can administer these tests. These tests can also be taken at our college testing centers.

If there is an MTA test you want to take, that is not part of your class; ask your teacher to proctor or schedule the test through your college testing center (instructor approval might be necessary depending upon your campus). There are also practice tests available, so check with your instructor on those, too.

Did you know that we have a Pearson Vue Testing Center located at the Kahl Educational Center?
(open to the public!)

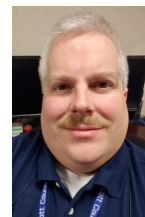## Staff Spotlight — Sam Samara, Adjunct Scott Community College

Sam has been working in Information Technology for about 25 years, in the telecommunications government IT management fields. Lucky for us, Sam also has 18 years of adjunct instructing for EICCD and was a past Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year.

Married for nearly 20 years with three kids, Sam likes to tinker with anything electronics related, collects model cars, and small toys. He enjoys all types of music and was a DJ for a few years before getting deep into technology.

Last year he retired from Volunteer Firefighting after 10 years.

IT professionals in the field play a crucial role in teaching our students and preparing them for the work world.

Grant Helps with Career Services

"I am so grateful to have help with my professional career preparation. The IT Work-based Coordinator (funded through the IHUM grant) has introduced me to Career Coach on the EICC website which has helped build my resume, and search for career information. I also enjoyed the Tour de IT she coordinated. The employers helped explain what an IT business is looking for from future IT students, and they gave us pointers on what to accomplish in college to help us stand out in the IT world. I am so happy that I chose to make a career change to IT Security and Forensics. I have enjoyed being an IT student here at SCC, the staff and students that I have encountered here have been so friendly and helpful. My family and friends have been very supportive, especially my boyfriend and my 9 year old son. I will be graduating in May 2018 with an AAS in IT Security and Forensics. My dream career would be an opportunity with a local IT business and be able to advance my knowledge and skills learned at SCC. "

Amanda Simon

"Tour de IT" Events
A chance for students to tour businesses with IT positions, learn from professionals in the field.
Spring 2017
Friday, March 31st
9am   Redstone Content
11am Von Maur
1pm   Fidlar Technologies

Friday, June 20th
10am John Deere Data Center

Registration required and limited!

Any business interested in hosting future tours can contact Christine at cpowers@eicc.edu or call 336-3317.

Students—Beyond the Classroom

The students worked very hard to raise the funds to enable participation at the National Collegiate Conference and Career Fair in St. Louis. They hosted 3 parking events: Halloween, Festival of Trees, and St Patrick's day parades. This involved early mornings, in sometimes cold and rainy conditions. They also sold coffee at the Kahl on the second floor. "I would like to thank everybody who participated in the fundraising this school year. Without all of you we would have never been able to take as many students as we did.," Zach Bergman.

"It is important that students gain experience out of the classroom. Networking with others, coordinating events, and promoting community involvement shows that these future IT professionals have a broader skill bank to bring to a potential employer," praised IT Work-based Coordinator Christine Powers. Many volunteered at the Plant Yourself in STEM and Women in IT events held at Kahl Education Center.

Students also participate in two leadership courses that help them develop skills in customer service, presentation skills, and best practices for business.

Eastern Iowa Community Colleges, separates Information Technology (IT) into two tracks: Networking and Programming (Software Development); then, we provide further specialized concentrations: Networking (CCNA), Hardware/ Help Desk, Server Administration, Security and Forensics, Programming (.NET), Database Administration, Web Development, Games and Simulations. Consulting opportunities will continue to grow as businesses increasingly need help managing, upgrading, and customizing more complex computer systems. Security and forensics are fast becoming one of the most sought after jobs in the marketplace.

SPRING DATES
May 12, 15 & 16   Final Exams
May 17   Spring Term Ends
May 29   Memorial Day – College CLOSED

SUMMER TERM (s)
First 4 Week Session
5/30 4 week session begins
6/23 4 week session ends
8 Week Session
5/30 8 week session begins
7/4 College Closed
7/21 Session ends
Second 4 Week Session
6/26 4 Week Session Begins
7/4 College Closed
7/21 Session Ends

Need an Intern?

"I bring employers and students together, " said Christine Powers, IT Work-Based Coordinator. Employers can send Christine their open positions to her and she will distribute them to the EICC IT community. "I am hoping to develop 6-8 established employer sites for regular intern placement. " Any employer that is interested can contact her at: cpowers@eicc.edu, on Linked In, or by calling 563-336-3317.
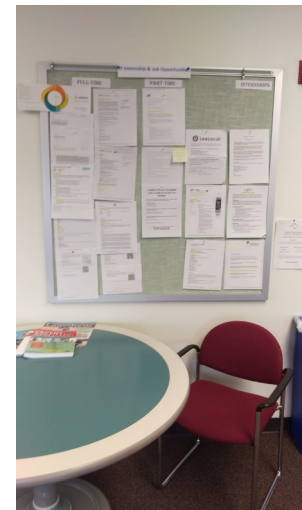
Job Search Resources Available

Room 612 in the Kahl Building offers a space for students to see jobs that are posted and meet with EICC IT designated staff to :

-Learn job search strategies

-Resume development/review

-Mock interviewing/coaching

-Linked In tutorial/set up

-Possible industry exam funding

A laptop is available for student use .

Similar support services are available on all campuses. Christine visits all locations and there are Career Navigators to help.

We're on the Web

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1000 Lincoln Boulevard,
Clinton, Iowa 52732
563-244-7001

Muscatine Community College
152 Colorado Street,
Muscatine, Iowa 52761
563-288-6001

Kahl Education Center
326 West 3rd Street
Davenport,IA 52801
563-441-4001