



A Minnesota State College and Universities Center of Excellence

Advance IT Minnesota Program Affiliation Agreement

Background

Our 2008-2009 strategic planning effort began to expand thinking about the way the Center can help facilitate responsiveness to the workforce needs of IT employers: shifting from a focus on building the capacity of the programs and expertise within our three founding academic partners to identifying a broader scale of impact that will require engaging a larger educational community with the Center.

In addition, while much was accomplished during the first three years of the Center's existence, we also discovered that our limited cadre of affiliated faculty was being stretched beyond capacity to achieve the ambitious agenda of the Center. As result the Center began working with faculty from other institutions as early as fall term of 2006 on specific projects like the cyber defense competition, the campus security assessment project, and the MnSCU ITS security training program.

Purpose of a more formal affiliation agreement

The intent of a formal affiliation agreement is to expand the efficacy of the Center in fulfilling its mission and strategic goals by increasing the number of programs, faculty, students and employers affiliated in a formal way with the Center.

Program-level agreements

The agreement is implemented at the program level because it is at this level, including "majors" at a university, that discrete, career-related student competencies are defined, acquired, evaluated and credentialed. This is also the "product level" most often used as a key metric of institutional "output" and by employers as a measure of potential talent availability for job location purposes.

Finally, programs have a designated academic administrator and typically have a core group of faculty

who regularly teach courses with a program of study; and an agreement must necessarily include involvement of interested and committed parties.

Agreement objectives

This agreement is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- Explicitly define benefits and expectations
- Promote engagement and commitment from all parties
- Provide a recognized foundation for financial transactions and co-sponsored activities
- Establish the basis for public recognition and mutual support
- Provide terms for disassociation if desired by either party

Agreement principles

- The agreement is based on a mutual interest and commitment to improve student preparation for IT-related careers that in turn contributes to career success and helps create a robust IT workforce for Minnesota employers.
- Collaboration among academic and industry colleagues is valued as a key factor of success in improving quality and reducing the total cost of innovation and improvement.
- Participation in specific projects is open to all interested program representatives willing to contribute to the effort but subject to funding constraints that may not subsidize participation of all interested parties.
- Actual project participation will be defined in proposals with specific terms dictated by the nature of the project outcomes and participants.

Summary of benefits and expectations for each academic affiliation status

Affiliation Status	BENEFITS	EXPECTATIONS
<p>Faculty Associate</p> <p>For individual faculty members interested in the mission of the Center and interaction with colleagues. Requires only establishing an account on the Center's IT Faculty Network.</p>	<p>Structured involvement with a broader community of colleagues</p> <p>Notification of RFPs, grant projects, consulting and research opportunities</p> <p>Invitations to Center and industry-sponsored events</p> <p>Access to information that may be of use in curriculum development and teaching</p>	<p>Sharing perspective through brief surveys or questionnaires</p> <p>Participation in activities based on professional interest</p> <p>Maintain an account on whatever platform is selected for an IT faculty network</p>
<p>Participating Program Member</p> <p>Programs must become a Center Participating Member to receive funding for project participation. Program representatives may participate in a project without being a member if no compensation is involved.</p>	<p>Structured involvement with a broader community of colleagues</p> <p>Eligibility to receive funding and/or participate in Center-funded initiatives</p> <p>Priority to participate in research, consulting and curriculum development projects managed by the Center</p> <p>Enhanced involvement with IT industry representatives</p> <p>Opportunities to participate in future grant-funded projects as available</p> <p>Student access to full range of career development resources provided by the Center</p>	<p>Engagement with colleagues from affiliated programs</p> <p>Participation in Center-sponsored events and opportunities</p> <p>In-kind contributions to Center projects and initiatives, including occasional scheduled use of facilities</p> <p>Recognition of Center affiliation on program web pages and program publications</p> <p>Accountability for results in projects for which funding is provided</p>
<p>Governing Program Member</p> <p>Governing Members participate in the annual RFP formulation, evaluation, and allocation process as well as to the overall strategic direction of the Center. A participating member may request to become a governing member after contributing to at least one successful Center-funded project.</p>	<p>All of the benefits included as a participating member</p> <p>Participation in determining strategic direction, and the annual project selection and allocation process.</p> <p>Eligibility to become a project leader and fiscal agent for approved projects</p>	<p>Time as needed to take advantage of extra-curricular opportunities</p> <p>Provide representatives to serve on at least two of the Center's Strategic Leadership Boards</p> <p>Accountability for any allocated funds and/or project leadership outcomes</p>