



Electrical and Computer Engineering Industry Advisory Board

Mentoring/Networking Panel Discussion

February 07, 2022

February 07, 2022

VU ECE IAB
Mentoring/Networking Discussion

Industry Advisory Board (ECE IAB)

Who We Are

- Professional representatives of industry **WHO CARE ABOUT VU ECE STUDENTS**

Our Mission

- Promote the **SUCCESS** of the **ECE** department and **GRADUATES**

What We Do

- Assist ECE department in ensuring educational programs prepare graduates
- Regular curricula review
- Participation in strategic planning and ABET accreditation
- Participate in events such as judging Senior Capstone projects
- Direct student and faculty support (Networking and mentoring, funding research, internships, job opportunities, and sessions such as today)

Agenda

- Networking
 - Networking in the professional world
 - Impact on career
 - How to start to network professionally
- Mentoring
 - What is a mentor?
 - Impact on career
 - How to find a mentor?
- Industry guidance on:
 - Internship/Job search
 - Preparing for an interview
 - Importance of soft skills
- Informal discussion and networking time

What is in it for you now?

Why think about networking or mentors now?

- Provide industry context in addition to classroom learning
- Broaden knowledge relative to applicable careers
- Provide coaching on resumes, interviewing, and career direction
- Begin development of relationships with professionals
- Increase self-awareness and self-discipline
- Help identify future internship/career opportunities

IAB Panel

- Personal Technical Background
 - Educational background
 - Career paths since graduation
 - Present job/industry segment
 - Company culture, what it is like in this segment of the industry
 - Challenges, joys, and rewards of your job

Networking

- Panel Discussion
 - Personal definition of networking
 - How did networking play a part in your career
 - When did you first begin (or realize you were) networking
 - Real time (face-to-face or virtual) vs social media networking
 - Advice and networking options for different personality types

Mentor

- Webster's definition – “a trusted counselor or guide”
- Panel Discussion
 - Your own personal definition from experience
 - What did you gain from having a mentor?
 - How many mentors have you had in your career?
 - Other areas of your life?
 - How did you develop the relationship?
 - Formal versus informal mentors
 - What are the most important things to consider in a mentoring relationship?
 - Does a mentor expect anything in return?

Internship/Job Search

- Utilize all available networks to identify potential opportunities
 - COE Career Compass events
 - VU job fairs
 - Other events with industry professionals – info nights, corporate sponsored capstone projects, other
 - VU Career Center
 - VU ECE LinkedIn group
 - VU Career Community group
 - Other personal networks
- Research the company
 - Technology/industry segment
 - Size/location
 - Markets/customers
 - History/culture
- Customize your resume
 - Tailor objective or overview to company's needs if possible
 - If job description is available then match some key words (SUBTLY)
 - Make sure you list YOUR accomplishments – What did YOU do?
 - What makes you special?

Preparing for Interview

- Familiarize yourself with the company
 - Technology/industry segment
 - Size/locations
 - Markets/customers
 - History/culture/demographics
- Prepare yourself to present best impression
 - Why do I want to work for this company?
 - What are my strengths and weaknesses?
 - What do I feel is my greatest accomplishment? Why?
 - Prepare to ask some questions of interest to you
 - Remember, you are also evaluating the company/opportunity as a good fit for your career
- Practice interview
- Present yourself professionally
 - Appropriate attire for the company
 - Always neat and professional even if less formal
 - If virtual
 - Be aware of background (visual and audio)
 - Ensure good network connectivity

Necessary “Soft Skills”

- Communication
 - Verbal and non-verbal communication
 - Active listening
 - Public speaking and presentation
 - Writing skills
- Teamwork
 - Brainstorming
 - Negotiation
 - Persuasion
- Leadership
 - Organization
 - Project
 - Personal Time
- Interpersonal Skills
 - Collaboration
 - Cooperation
 - Respectfulness
 - Flexibility
 - Humility
- Intellectual Curiosity
 - Problem solving
 - Creativity
 - Critical thinking
 - Innovation
 - Troubleshooting
- Customer Service
 - Everyone has a customer
- Etc

What to do now?

- **Networking Resources**

- Register on LinkedIn
 - Join group - Villanova Electrical and Computer Engineering
 - Connect with us and other industry professionals
- College of Engineering Career Compass mentoring program
- Nova Network: <https://Villanova.peoplegrove.com/hub/Villanova/home>
- Join Handshake for job opportunities through the VU Career Center

- **Mentoring**

- Search above for VU ECE Mentor
- Also search interest on companies, skills, experience, interests, and location
- Make contact with a potential mentor
 - Introduce yourself and reasons for contact
 - Plan next contacts
 - Be sensitive to professional's schedule

Participate in events on campus with industry participation

Questions and Discussion