Industry Collaboration

How to increase industry participation?

Irtishad Ahmad, Ph.D., P.E., F. ASCE

Roles of Academic Programs

- Research
- Graduate Studies
- Undergraduate Studies
- Service to the Constituency, Community and Society

Paradigm shift in engineering education and research

- Change in focus from technology to business and people
- Change in emphasis from theory to practice and application
- Change in expectation more in people skill and management skill than just technical knowhow
- Change in market demand more demand for skills in entrepreneurship and leadership, and on interdisciplinary knowledge than just specialist knowledge

Issues and Challenges

- Perception Lack of understanding and appreciation
- Lack of incentive to the industry
- Lack of incentive to the faculty
- Lack of R&D funding available to the industry

Challenges in engineering education and research

- Are we preparing our students to face these shifts or changes?
 - Curriculum and training
 - Body of knowledge
 - Skills Leadership, Entrepreneurship, People
- Are we motivating our students to become innovative problem solvers?
 - Research
 - Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Are we serving the needs of the community?
 - Society?
 - Civilization?

Industry interaction in teaching

- Curriculum -
- Guest lecture/Adjuncts -
- Field trips —

Industry interaction in research

- Participation as
 - focus group
 - Funding source
 - Consultant/Partner
 - Members in dissertation committees

Job placement and internships

- Students Paid v. unpaid
- Faculty Summer employment

Other industry involvement

- Industry Advisory Council
 - Curriculum
 - Fund raising
 - Outreach/Continuing education

Thank you!