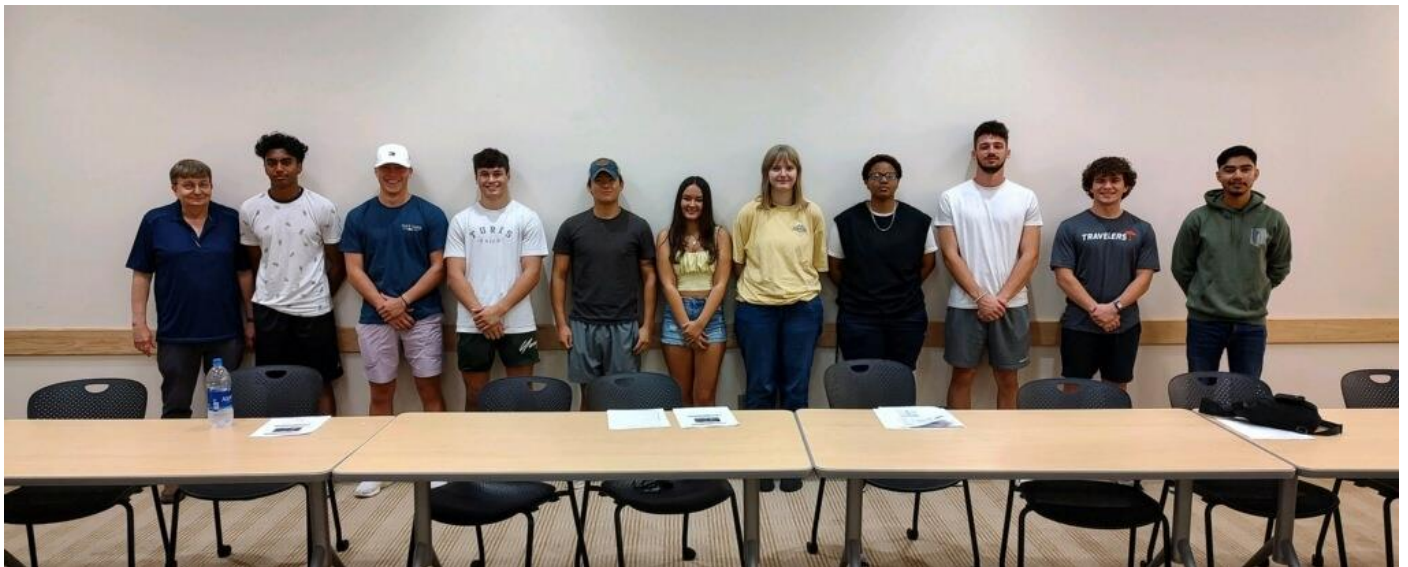


# Warrior Welcome Weekend Information Sessions for College of Business and BIS Program

The 2023 Warrior Welcome was a three-day event spanning August 26-28 which was designed to help students acclimate themselves to campus and prepare for the start of classes. All new first-year and transfer, residential and commuter students were required to attend. The events planned included several socials, tours, shows, and meetings.

Following Peer Mentor Meetings on the Monday the 28<sup>th</sup>, the new students were required to attend meetings specific to their academic major. The Business Information Systems Program's Information Session was held in Student Center 221. The BIS Info Session focused on informing new students about the BIS major, its requirements, coursework planning, career opportunities, and relevant minors that complement and enhance other academic and career fields. Dr. Citurs introduced himself and the BIS faculty and discussed their areas of teaching and research specialization. Each new BIS student had an opportunity to introduce themselves and ask questions of the BIS faculty or the current BIS Students present. The students were then invited by Drew Cavar and Marcos Hernandez (BIS-ITSA Club current President & President Emeritus respectively) to the upcoming BIS New Student Meet and Greet Reception on Wednesday evening where they could enjoy pizza and soda while meeting other BIS students and alumni with similar school and career interests.



## BIS-ITSA Fall 2023 Student Meet and Greet

At the start of the Fall 2023 Semester, on August 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, the BIS-ITSA club hosted a 'Meet and Greet' to welcome incoming freshmen into the BIS Program and introduce them to the BIS-ITSA club. This session was not only open to new students and current BIS students, but it also welcomed anyone with an interest in the promising and ever-growing field of Business Information Systems. During this event, many students with a wide variety of majors and from all different walks of life got to enjoy pizza and soda in the Webb faculty lounge, while getting to meet both members of the club and BIS faculty. In addition, they were able to learn about both the events that the BIS-ITSA club hosts, and the countless career opportunities within the field of BIS. Above all, students who were new to the field of BIS got to network and gain important insights and knowledge from both upper-level BIS students and prior BIS alumni who are currently working at Travelers Insurance.



# BIS-ITSA Club Fair Thursday September 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 – 7:00pm

## Student Center Patio

The 2023 Fall Student Club Fair was held on Thursday September 7<sup>th</sup>. During the event, several BIS E Board members stood at the stand, along with a variety of BIS club students promoting the BIS club trying to spread its popularity. Matt Bielaczyc, Rachel Hughes, Brandon Steen, Colby Dubois, Andrew Cavar and Sam Hurlburt all attended the club table to speak and attract more attention to our BIS ITSA club! The BIS ITSA club offers a variety of events that anyone can attend which was a key talking point during our club fair. The Resume Writing Workshop is a big event where Eastern Alumni join us in sharing helpful resume writing tips and tricks to make your resume look superb.

The BIS ITSA club offers a lot of diversity accepting all students who are willing to join. The end goal of the club fair was to help inform Eastern students of what we are capable of and the amazing opportunities that come with being in the BIS ITSA club. This ended up being very successful, as we had over 30+ names sign up for the BIS ITSA email list which will inform all students of upcoming BIS events and more!

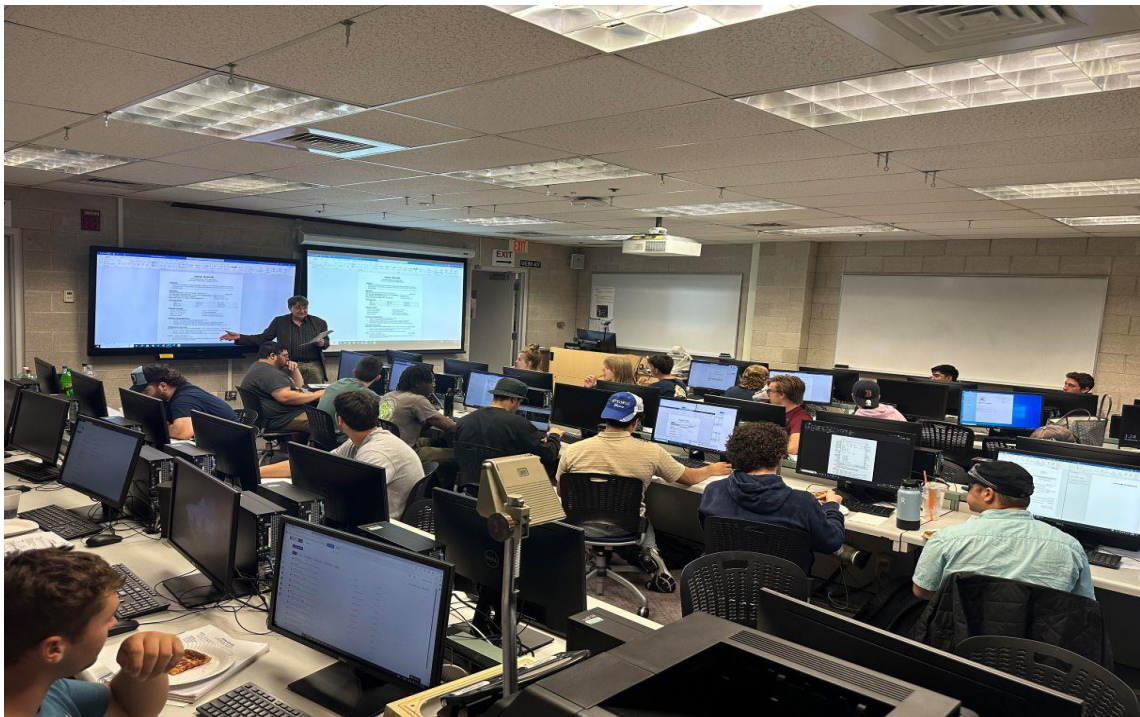


# BIS-ITSA Resume Preparation Workshop

On Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the BIS-ITSA club hosted a resume prep workshop. Members of the club, as well as non-members with an interest in the field of biz-tech had attended this event. Dr Citurs, head of the BIS Program, educated students on the importance of a resume that stands out, and gave many key tips on how to craft the perfect one.

Those in attendance were able to gain many important insights from Dr. Citurs, as he has both much experience in the field of biz-tech and has connections with several major companies who agree that the resumes of biz-tech students at Eastern are top-notch. The purpose of this workshop was to provide students with a strong foundation for building their resumes, and to best prepare them for when company representatives visit the campus to provide feedback on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

During the presentation, Dr. Citurs stressed several key points, such as using many of MS Words features like changing vertical spacing, using a clean and simplistic font and format, and using tables to showcase the skills learned in class. In addition, Dr. Citurs also mentioned important coursework to present on one's resume, and emphasized the importance of academic honesty when it comes to creating a resume. This workshop is held every semester in mid-September.



# BIS-ITSA Social – Friday September 15<sup>th</sup> – 6 to 8:30 – Fine Arts Center Lobby

The BIS Program and BIS-ITSA Club organized a social on September 15, 2023, from 6-8:30 PM in the Fine Arts Instructional Center Lobby. The event consisted of current BIS students, BIS alumni and three guest speakers. This event allowed current BIS students to network with alumni to learn about different career options in the field of Business Information Systems and technology roles. Attendees were fortunate to hear from three guest speakers from The Hartford, Travelers Insurance, and IBM. During the event, guests were treated to a buffet dinner consisting of pizza, soda, and an assortment of cookies.

The social began with opening remarks from Dr. Citurs to talk about the growth of the BIS program and future outlooks. Dr. Citurs is constantly working with alumni from numerous employers along with IS national standards to adapt the program to meet the skill requirement needs biz-tech companies are looking for to make Eastern BIS Program graduates more appealing for the ever-growing field of biz-tech.

Following introductions made by Dr. Citurs, the Operations, Technology, Data and Analytics Leadership Development Program lead, Adele Kostek (Fig. 1), spoke about the benefits of The Hartford's OTD&A Leadership Development program as well as how integration of agile scrum is being used in technology and business project management as well as analytical projects across The Hartford and industry.



*Figure 1 The OTD&A lead at The Hartford, Adele Kostek sharing the importance of agile skills in project management and analytics.*



*Figure 2 Data Engineer at the Travelers and BIS alumni Connor Chute sharing the vital skills he learned in the BIS program and how he leveraged them to improve fraud detection at Travelers Insurance.*

Closely following Adele, Travelers Business Insights and Analytics Data Engineer, and BIS alumni Connor Chute (Fig. 2) spoke about how he leveraged what he learned from the BIS program to improve fraud detection in insurance claims. The skills he found most impactful were his analytical problem-solving and data skills learned in Business Analytics, BI, and Business Database Management.

Both Adele and Connor stated how they appreciated that the ECSU BIS Program was flexible with the curriculum by adding new and updated classes to improve and provide important relevant skills needed in industry. For example, the BIS program added a Data Wrangling class to learn about data pipelines in business data processes and analytical flows, while addressing business data rules and data quality.

The featured speaker of the night was Andrew Hicks. Andrew is on the Z Advanced Technology Team at IBM in Poughkeepsie, NY. Andrew is an IBM Master Inventor with over 100 patents to his name that focus on developing new technologies to utilize in the near future in the realms of Enterprise Computing, AI, and Quantum Computing. During Andrews presentation he focused on Generative AI, large language models and their limitations due to inverse scaling (too much data) and declining AI model quality over time, sustainability in tech and business, and Quantum Computing. Andrew also brought up a good money-making opportunity through solving inverse scaling problems for cash prizes.

Moreover, Andrew emphasized the importance of the liberal arts classes that he took during his undergrad education. He leveraged and applied those skills to set himself apart from the other engineers at IBM because every engineer at IBM is expected to know how to be a good engineer. What made Andrew unique was his ability to integrate additional liberal arts skillsets such as drawing and presenting with skillsets such as those from engineering, technology, and business to be able to develop high quality patent designs, documentation, and presentations. Andrew also discussed how sustainability and economic business viability must be incorporated into technological innovations and adoption by the business-tech world and society.

Andrew finished the presentation talking about quantum computing trends in the coming years. Helium-3, necessary



Figure 3 Featured speaker, Andrew Hicks, giving a presentation about Generative AI Large Language models, Sustainability, and Quantum Computing.



Figure 4 A BIS – ITSA audience of alumni and students in the Fine Arts Center Lobby listening to Andrew Hicks give his presentation on Generative AI, Large Language models, Sustainability, and Quantum Computing.

in quantum computing, is scarce on earth, but is abundant on the moon surface. He spotlighted how scientists have teleported light protons long distances using lasers to facilitate non-interceptable encryption codes. He got us thinking about how advancements in technology can impact the world.

The event concluded with announcement of upcoming BIS-ITSA events and ongoing discussions of the topics covered during the evening. Many people wanted to talk with Andrew, and he obliged by talking to everyone.

# The Hartford Info Session Wednesday, September 20th

On Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, The Hartford Insurance came to speak with us about their Early Career Development Program. The info session was very helpful to any Freshman, Sophomore, Junior or Senior as The Hartford had something to offer for all of them. The Hartford has the “Freshman Experience” program that allows Freshman to apply and build their personal brand. Freshman are able to gain insights to position themselves for future internships and full-time jobs.

Plenty of BIS club students attended the info session that was held in the faculty lounge where we were all informed of the “Elite 50 Internships 2022 Winner” by The Hartford! The Hartford was recognized for this because of how their internship offers so many incredible things. Unique aspects of the program, meaningful work assignments, training and mentoring, compensation and perks, executive level exposure and so much more. This relationship that has been built over the years with The Hartford has established a foundation between Dr. Citurs, and the Eastern students within the BIS program.

Another thing that was mentioned by The Hartford was one of their popular LDP programs called Tech and Data. In this program, you can rotate in areas including application development, cyber security, and compliance, data analysis and engineering and software and environmental engineering.

We were joined by several employees from The Hartford, including Donna DeFelice, Kyra, Izzirah, and alumni Greg Platosz (Finance and BIS dual-major) and Al Viglione (Economics and BIS dual-major). All of them gave useful advice and insight on their career paths on how much of a great company The Hartford is and all the program areas they offer. Such as, Actuarial, Claims, Enterprise Risk Management, Finance, Investment Management, Operations, Product and more! Throughout those programs, you will get regular coaching, mentoring and feedback from other employees throughout your 10–11-week Internship over the Summer!

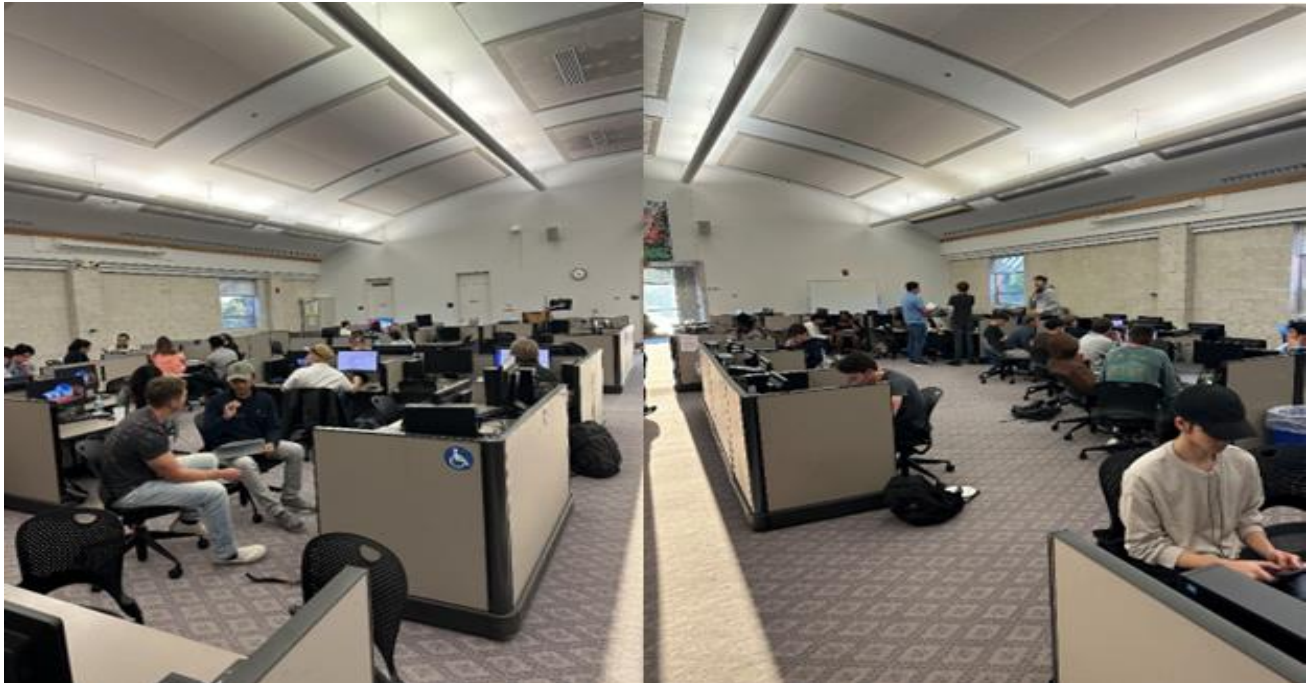






# BIS-ITSA Resume Writing Workshop

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, from 5:30 to 7:30, Eastern's BIS-ITSA club hosted a resume writing workshop, geared towards students within the fields of BIS, CS, and Data Science. This event featured prior Eastern Alumni from several major companies within CT such as Travelers, The Hartford, and Cigna. Those in attendance were able to receive assistance for crafting the perfect resume for the internship/job application process. Each student who attended was able to sit down one-on-one with one or several alumni and were given personalized feedback on the strengths of their resumes and what could be improved. Some of the specific feedback given included formatting steps to both enhance the students' highlights and make them look more professional. In addition, important points such as adding important Bus-Tech keywords and showcasing extracurricular activities and projects were stressed by the alumni.



Writing an ideal resume is an incredibly important part of earning a career within the field of Bus-Tech, as it gives students a chance to display their best attributes and really stand out when applying for both internship and job positions. The BIS-ITSA Club and the alumni host this event every semester, and it helps prepare students for a meaningful career within the vast and everchanging world of Bus-Tech.



# Mock Interviews with Alumni and Company Reps

On Wednesday, September 27th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm, the BIS-ITSA Club hosted a mock interview event with Eastern alumni. Alumni that attended this event worked for large insurance companies such as Travelers and The Hartford. This event is held annually by the BIS-ITSA Club to prepare students for both business and technical interviews. Many of the alumni that came have interviewed potential employees at their own respective companies, so the questions asked were directly from real interviews.

The event kicked off and students were split off into different parts of the lab for one-on-one mock interview sessions. These one-on-one sessions consisted of resume review, questions about the companies, behavioral interview questions and most importantly, feedback from the interviewers. These mock interviews allow students to recognize and learn from their mistakes so that the same mistakes are not made in real internship and career position interviews. This event, for some students, may have been the first time they encountered having to answer behavioral interview questions, which has become an important and common first stage interview technique in the biz-tech field. All students were able to complete one interview.

This educational event creates an opportunity for Eastern's Business Information Systems and Computer Science majors and minors to practice their interviewing skills, while getting to know representatives from some of the top companies in Connecticut. Mock interviews will remain a part of BIS-ITSA's annual events so that biz-tech students now and in the future can be better prepared for important job interviews.





# BIS/ITSA - Travelers Business Insights and Analytics (BI&A) Internship and Career Program Info Session

On Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 7:30, students both involved and interested in the field of BIS attended the Travelers Business Intelligence and Analytics Leadership Development Program in Webb 358 (the faculty lounge). This session featured representatives from Travelers Insurance who were also prior BIS Alumni, and they shared valuable information regarding the details and prospects of this popular and highly sought after program. The representatives included: Daytona (DJ) Rizzo (BIS) - Information Delivery Engineer, Hunter Vetterkind (BIS) -Data Engineer, and James Conlin (CS and BIS) – Data Engineer.

Those in attendance were able to get insider information on the workings of the program and were exposed to the five unique fields within the program (Business analyst, Data Engineer, Data Management, Geospatial, and Information Delivery). Seeing as each representative was a prior alumnus at Eastern, they were also able to share valuable insights on the courses and skills from the BIS program that benefitted them most in their jobs/internships. Some of the classes that were mentioned were Rapid IT Development Management (BIS 437), Big Data Programming (CS 343), Business Database Management (BIS 373), Business Intelligence (BIS 447) and Data Visualization (BIS 449). Alongside the skills acquired from their coursework, they also discussed some of the desirable technologies and skillsets that are currently in use within the program. Some of these technologies mentioned were Python, SQL, AWS, and Snowflake. Skillsets that were mentioned included business analytics, data wrangling, database management, and project management.

Overall, the presentation was a valuable insight into one of Traveler’s most popular internship programs for those interested in BIS, and showed students an insider’s perspective on what they can expect and learn from the program. After the presentation, students spent the last hour asking questions, and pizza and pop were provided. This event takes place every fall semester.



# Bus/Tech and IT Career Conversations

On Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the BIS-ITSA club along with Eastern's Office of career success hosted the Bus/Tech career conversations in the Johnson room of the library. This event welcomed students majoring in fields pertaining to business and technology to sit down and converse with both representatives and prior alumni from major companies within the area such as Travelers, the Hartford, Cigna, the State of Connecticut, Mass Mutual, General Dynamics (Electric Boat), RTX (Pratt & Whitney), Cloudera, Amwell, Intelliflo, & Hartford Healthcare. This event was a great success; Over ninety students attended it, and many of them even stayed to converse with multiple alumni and representatives to learn about different career fields.

The event grouped the different career paths into their own tables, and students got a certain amount of time to visit each table and learn about that career area and the prospects it holds. There were 9 career area field tables that students could learn about, these included:

- Cloud Apps and Ecommerce
- Network Administration, Tech Support, & Cybersecurity
- Operations & Supply Chain Techs
- Financial Tech
- Business Intelligence/Analytics, Data Engineering, & AI
- Healthcare IS/IT, Healthcare Info Management
- Database Administration, SQL & Enterprise Architecture
- Business/Systems Analyst, Tech Consultant
- Project Management, Scrum Masters, & Agile Coaches

The event encouraged students to rotate tables every 12 minutes, but students could stay at each table if they liked. The event was conducted in a come-and-go format, with Chartwells providing food.

See additional photos on the next page:





## Majors and Minors Fair 10/11/23

On Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup>, Eastern organized a Majors and Minors fair to allow Freshman and Sophomores the ability to walk around and visit a wide variety of tables to gain insight into possible majors to take with accompanying minors during their time at Eastern.

Throughout the Evening, the upperclassmen of the Business Information Systems Program and Dr. Citurs spoke with multiple freshman and sophomores to share the strength of the program, such as the skills you learn and the importance of building a strong network. The BIS program was also able to show the multitude of events the club puts on each semester to allow students to build their network with alumni in their career areas of interest.

Moreover, Dr. Citurs was able to organize and put together many different Eastern-in-4 plans with other programs that pair well with the BIS major. These plans included the BIS major with accompanying double majors with Computer Science and Data Science and minors such as marketing, management and operations and supply chains. This way, the students can be aware of what classes they need to take and when.

All-in-all the majors and minors fair was a big success for the BIS program. Students were able to meet alumni, speak with current students and get an idea of how their time at Eastern will play out.

