

IT Career Conversations with Alumni/Company Representatives

On Tuesday, evening October 2nd, the Business Information Systems (BIS) Program and the BIS - Association of Information Technology (AITP) Student Chapter in collaboration with the Center for Internships and Career Development (CICD) hosted a Career Conversations event geared towards careers in the information technology sector. Despite the downpours of a severe thunderstorms and a tornado just a few miles away in Mansfield, attendance was good and discussion lively, during this first ever come-and-go biz-IT related career conversations event.

This event began with a short introduction by the CICD Director Clifford Marrett and the BIS Program Coordinator Dr. Alex Citurs followed by introductions of each company representatives. This event was broken up into short 12 to 15 minutes intervals where students rotated between tables with alumni/representative conversationalists from specific IT career path areas, within technology related industries. These positions and field areas included software developers; project managers and scrum masters; computer networking and data security; database administration and SQL – data architecture; social media – web design and marketing; cloud computing and operations management; as well as business intelligence, big data and data mining. At these tables, students got to ask questions about how the alumni/representatives got to where they are at in their careers, what the different career field areas are really like, how to get into the job market for certain types of positions, what useful courses to take at Eastern, and many more. Alumni and representatives from Cigna, Travelers, General Dynamics, Disney Recruitment Campus and more helped out with this event.

While socializing with refreshments, students were able to get the unique experience of face to face time with Eastern alumni and company representatives in the various career areas that they are interested in potentially pursuing. Students often feel confused or lacking in information as to what career path areas they are really most interested in and how to better position themselves for careers in those areas. This event created a personal and uncommon experience to communicate individually or in small groups with employees at notable companies in a setting free from the stress of interviews or the need to sell yourself as a candidate. This is just one of many events this semester held by the BIS Program, the BIS-AITP Student Chapter, and other on campus resources to help prepare students to enter technical biz-tech fields, which have been focusing on student career readiness. Thanks to the Center for Internships and Career Development and the Business Information Systems Program along with the BIS-AITP Student Chapter this event was a success and another is already being planned for next year.

