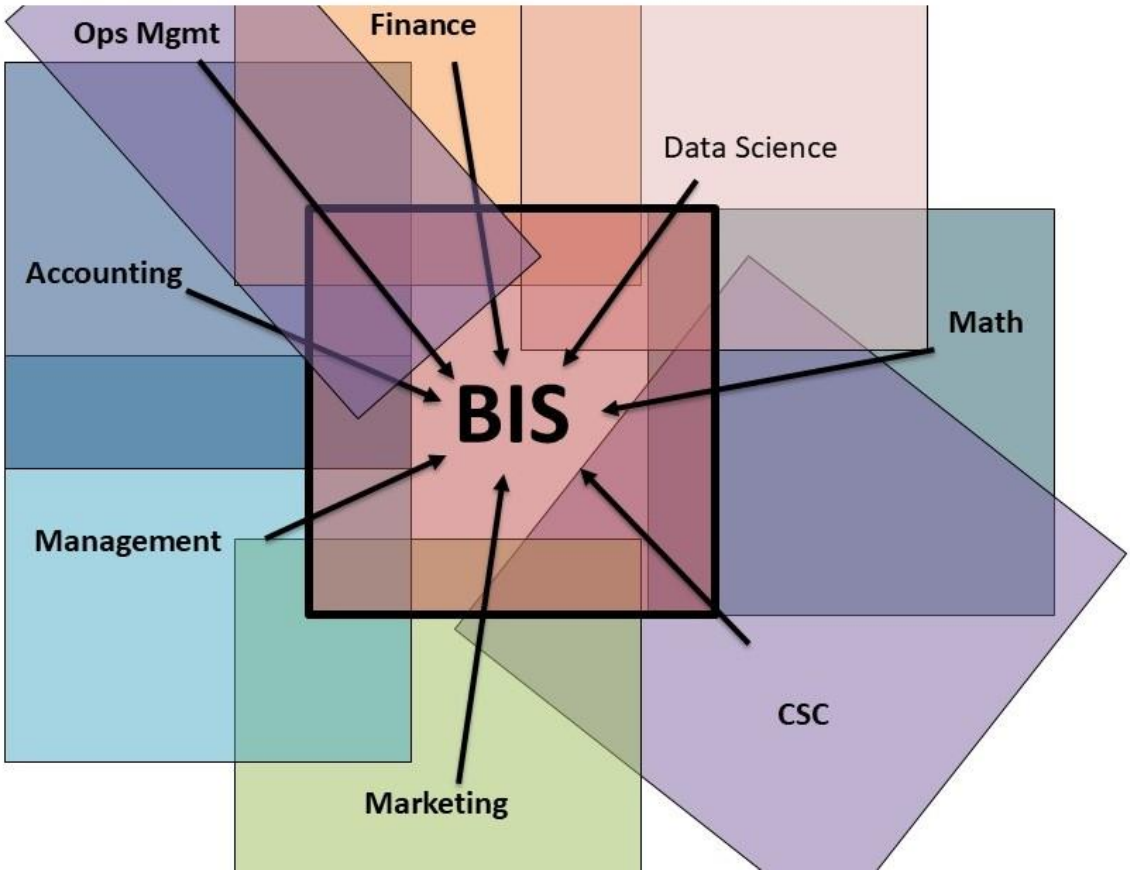
BIS-ITSA Club Warrior Welcome

August 25, 2025

At the very beginning of the Fall 2025 semester, on Monday August 25th from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM the BIS-ITSA club greeted incoming freshmen and transfer students during the Warrior Welcome Week to discuss the Business Information Systems major and the benefits to becoming part of such a program. Dr. Citurs gave a high-level overview of the program and highlighted the practical, financial, and career opportunities that come along side being in the Business Information Systems discipline. He also explained the basics of ELAC, the electives, and the Business Analytics minor, as well as other related minors and good major pairings.

They then had several upper-level Business Information Systems students discuss their internships over the summer, Robyn Vetterkind, Sam Hurlburt, Logan French, Mitch Peterson, and Bryn Pederson; The Hartford, IT work and Independent Study, The Hartford, Fast Chemistry and an AI Independent Study (mini-course), and Travelers (Business Insights & Analytics Leadership Development Program).

The Warrior Welcome concluded with an invite to the Meet n' Greet, Wednesday, August 27 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM in Webb Hall 358 Faculty Lounge, with food and beverages. Unfortunately, no pictures were taken this semester of this event.



BIT-ITSA FALL 2025 Student Meet and Greet

August 27, 2025

At the beginning of the Fall 2025 semester, on August 27th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM, the BIS-ITSA club hosted their “Meet and Greet” event to have a welcoming atmosphere for all new students to get to know the BIS-ITSA Club and the people in it. This event was open to not only BIS program students but also to any others who have an interest in the practical and extensive discipline of Business Information Systems. This semester, this event had a club attendance of over 50 students, meeting this annual event’s all time high! The event was a casual social event, which allowed students from different backgrounds, education, and career aspirations to sit and get to know other members of the club over pizza and beverages. They also got to network with higher-level BIS students to gain advise on how to best make their way through their BIS courses, as well as any additional beneficial information about navigating their way through college without becoming overwhelmed and learning what to focus more of their time on to succeed! The BIS-ITSA Club Meet and Greet happens at the beginning of every semester.









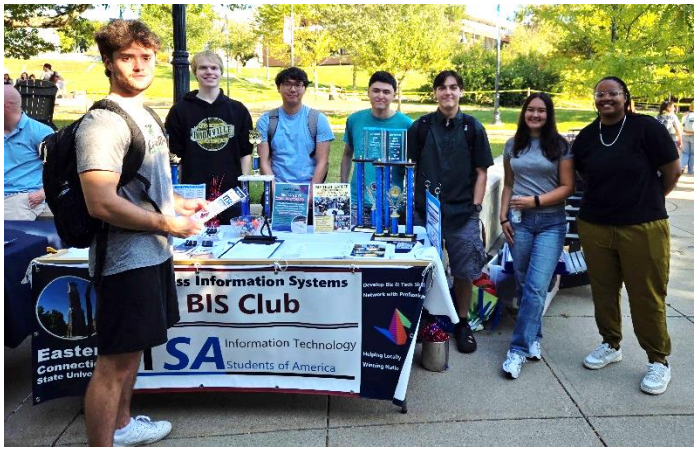


BIS-ITSA FALL 2025 Club Fair

September 3, 2025

The 2025 Fall Student Club Fair and Eastern's University President's Picnic was held on Wednesday, September 3rd. During the event, several BIS E-Board members gathered behind the club's table and were joined by a number of BIS club students promoting the club events that highlight the career growth opportunities such as resume development, mock interviews, networking opportunities, and securing internships and jobs with top companies such as Travelers Insurance, The Hartford, IBM, Google, Pratt & Whitney, and General Dynamics. In the EBoard, students Sam Hurlburt, Gage Duarte, Alex Saranich, and Coleman Tandler stood by the club table to attract more attention and to support club growth! Business Information Systems (BIS) is the combination of technology, people, and processes used by businesses and organizations to collect, process, store, and share information, which helps organizations and people in their careers and personal lives make better decisions, improve efficiency, and manage data. Compared to larger schools around the country, Eastern BIS students win and place high nationally frequently in IT skill competitions annually. BIS-ITSA club is set on adding more events for community-tied tech service-learning projects and company visits for students to talk with alumni and employers.

This year, the club garnered over 85 signatures from students and is currently notifying students regarding upcoming events.





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BIS-ITSA Club FALL 2025 Resume Prep Workshop

September 10, 2025

On Wednesday, September 10th, from 3:00 PM to 4 PM, the BIS-ITSA club hosted their well-received "Resume Prep" workshop to get members of the club and any other tech related majors to learn how to design their resume into one that stands out and emphasizes the best features of their education to better match employers' open positions' needed skill sets and capabilities.

Dr. Citurs led the workshop by presenting to a crowd of over 50 students with some even waiting outside the door! This maintains the growth of the club over the last couple years after COVID. Dr. Citurs has an extensive history in the field of Biz-Tech with numerous impressive connections to multiple major companies home-based out of Connecticut through alumni and others, who have all attended to the fact that the overall format from Biz-Tech resumes from Eastern students are excellent. As the name suggests, this was only the preparation workshop, as the writing workshop will be the following week, September 17th from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM where alumni from numerous of the companies will come to Eastern to provide feedback on students' resumes and suggest improvements from the hiring perspective! Dr. Citurs also repeated the presentations to those who could not make it, at 4:00 PM.

Dr. Citurs discussed several valuable tips during the presentation which include Biz-Tech relevant skills, coursework and projects to spotlight on their resumes. He also brought out formatting options such as modifying margins and changing vertical spacing to fit more important content on your resume, along with organizing skills and fitting coursework into tables, then deleting the borders of the table for a clean look. This event is held early in every semester, with pizza, pop, and cookies provided.






What's on a Resume'
EXIT
WEBB 407



AI Overview

September 17, 2025

On Wednesday September 17th, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the Webb Room 407, the BIS-ITSA club hosted two presentations created by Mitch Peterson and Logan French to discuss the various themes regarding AI! Mitch began covering the AI used in his summer project, Eastern's new AI chatbot. The chatbot was modeled around the popular chat tool, ChatGPT, but using many of Amazon's AWS Bedrock platform tools, Mitch also presented his knowledge of prompt engineering he learned over his internship, explaining that the essentials to prompt engineering include giving a "role" and specifying a particular output format that is logical for the business needs. Additionally, he also briefly mentioned different types of AI and clarified that type of AI that Mitch employed was a mid-level language-based generative AI model.

As for Logan French, he explained the usefulness of learning AI for the current environment in the economy and recommended that we create projects in AI. Logan advocated that everyone could create a project for AI and encouraged that it would benefit all of us in our search for internships/jobs.





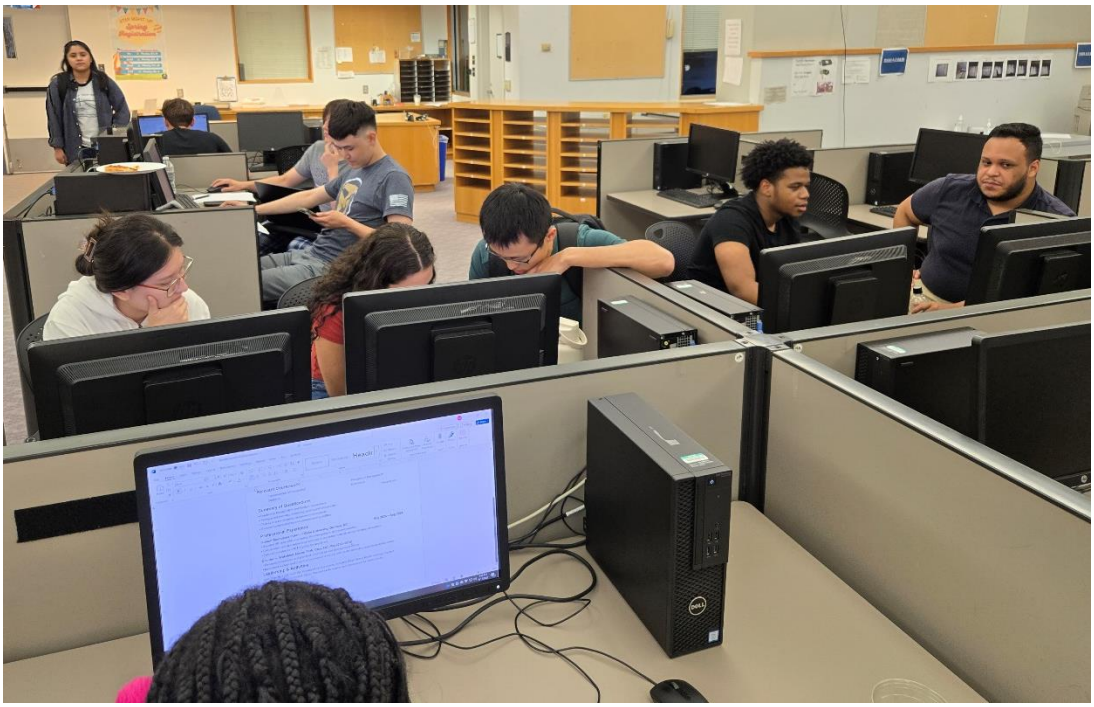
Resume Writing Workshop

September 17, 2025

On Wednesday September 17th in Webb 410, the BIS-ITSA Club held their biannual Resume Writing Workshop where students can come and have their resumes reviewed by alumni and some employer representatives. Many alumni are in hiring positions so the students can have direct communication with them to ask exactly what they're looking for on resumes for the different internship career positions. Whether it be helping them put projects on they haven't previously considered or rearranging the layout of their resumes to be more professional, this event is one of the most practical and useful events the BIS-ITSA Club holds during the semester.

The BIS/Bis-Tech alumni provide a unique perspective, sometimes being involved in the hiring process. These alumni have stated often that the Eastern CT State University students provide excellent resumes to them, highlighting the affect this event as well as the Resume Prep Workshop have in shaping students' resumes for their career aspirations.

In the current job market, where companies normally receive hundreds of resumes from students across the state and Northeast for the same job position, it's necessary to have a resume that resonates with employers and represents the hard work and achievements employers are looking for. Attending this event gives students a sense of confidence afterwards knowing that their resume is much cleaner and more professional than it was prior to this event working with Biz-Tech alumni.










EASTERN



The Hartford Information Session

September 23, 2025

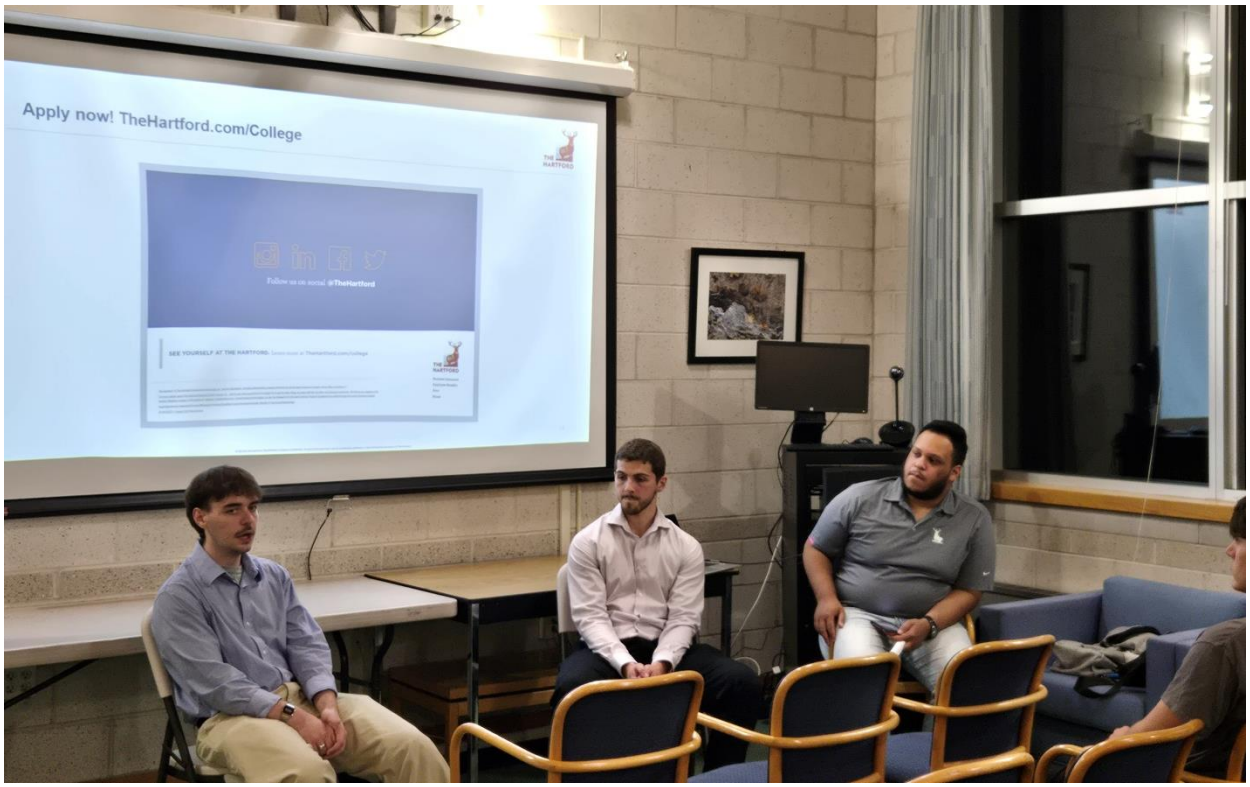
On September 23 from 5:30-7:30, the BIS-ITSA club was visited by a company representative (Alex Martinez) as well as two alumni (Dylan Lennon and Joseph Hines) from The Hartford in the Webb Hall Faculty Lounge, and were joined by other BIS, Computer Science, and Data Science students to talk about career opportunities. The Hartford has many early career programs meant for current undergraduates and new graduates. These opportunities encompass a wide variety of career areas, including data and analytics, cybersecurity, underwriting, product management, and actuarial science. The two main programs talked about at the event were the Product Management Development Program (PMD) and Tech, Data, Analytics, and Cyber Leadership Development Program (TDAC LDP). Although Alex is not an alumnus of Eastern, he has represented The Hartford at many past events. Thus, he was able to connect with the students easily and provide helpful information regarding these programs. Both alumni graduated from Eastern with Majors in Business Information Systems and are working full-time at The Hartford.

The PMD is an eighteen-month development program that exposes members to career areas such as product development, product management, business intelligence, and pricing analytics. The main focus of the program is to provide a combination of technical experience and business knowledge to become a well-rounded product leader. This went over well with the student audience, as the BIS major at Eastern also focuses heavily on combining technical skills with business domain knowledge. The TDAC program is a two-year program that exposes members to areas such as IT engineering, cybersecurity, data analytics, and project management. Both programs hire interns as well as full-time employees. It was strongly recommended (especially to current sophomores and juniors) to apply for the internships, as having internship experience provides an advantage in the future when applying for the full-time positions. It was also recommended to apply as soon as possible, as the first round of hiring for Summer 2026 is done in Fall 2025.

Another opportunity that was mentioned was The Hartford’s Early Immersion Program, a three-day event held in the summer meant for college sophomores who are interested in applying to internships in the future.

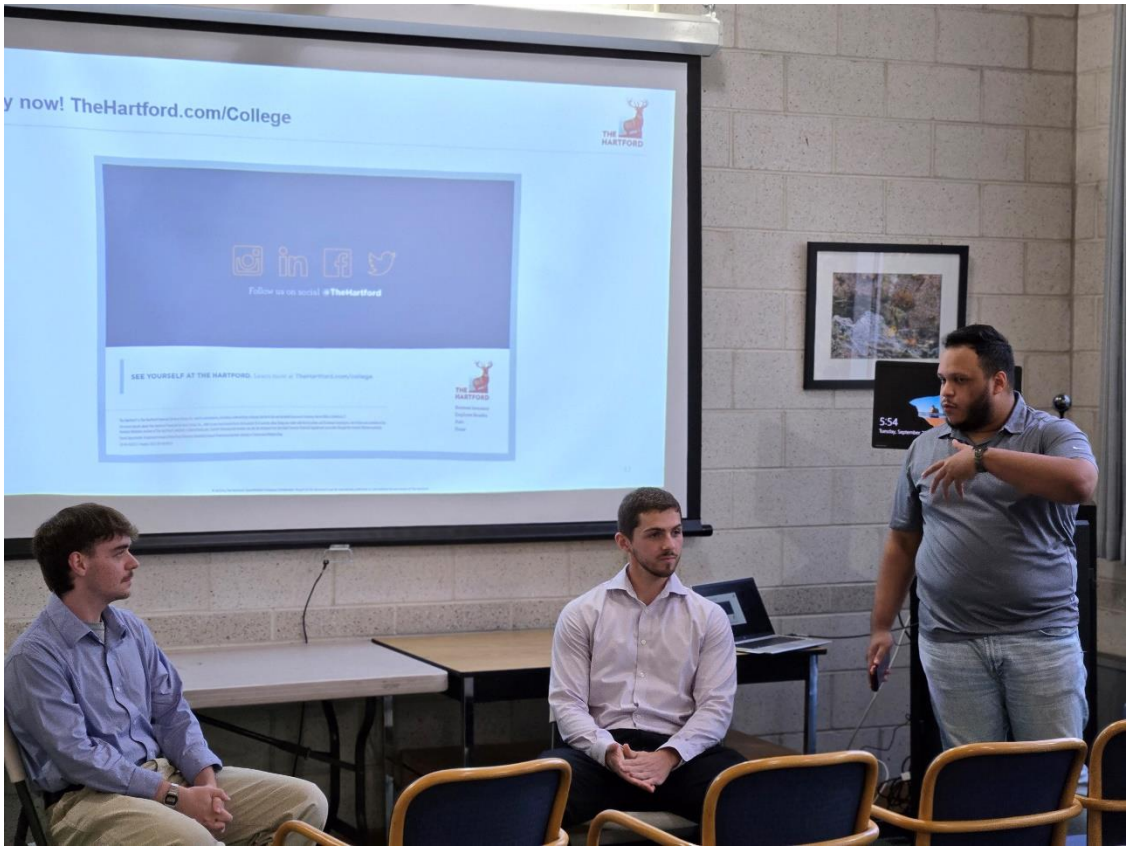
At the end of the event, the students asked questions regarding the programs, as well as general questions about the company. A few current students who previously interned at The Hartford were also able to speak briefly about their experiences at the company. Additionally, the students attending were treated to pizza and pop.




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Mock Interviews with Alumni and Employer Representatives

September 24, 2025

On Wednesday, September 24th, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the Webb Room 410, The BIS-ITSA club met in Webb Hall room 410 to perform mock interviews with alumni from Eastern Connecticut State University. As usual for BIS-ITSA events, pizza & pop was provided for all attendees of the event. There were alumni from a myriad of companies, including Travelers, Hartford, and even Eastern itself. The event involved simulating interviews with real-world employees, asking students questions to test their class knowledge, interpersonal skills and business acumen as suited for the interview. There were many alumni and even more students who participated in the event. This was also an opportunity for connecting with alumni, for those who wish to build rapport with companies that they may just work for when they graduate. Additionally, there was pizza & pop (pizza and soda) as refreshments for the students while they wait for opportunities to be interviewed. There was a massive turnup of students, however the supply of Pizza & Pop was enough for all students and everyone.













Travelers Business Insights and Analytics Information Session

September 30, 2025



On September 30th from 5:30-7:30, three Travelers company representatives (Jake Cohen, James Conlin, and Brandon Steen) visited the BIS-ITSA club members in the Webb Hall Faculty Lounge, and were joined by other BIS, Computer Science, and Data Science students to talk about career opportunities at Travelers. Specifically, the representatives spoke about the company's Business Insights and Analytics Leadership Development Program (BI&A LDP), which hires both interns and full-time employees. The LDP is a three-year rotational program where members are able to explore different roles in the world of insurance data. Some of these roles include decision science, data engineering, GIS, data visualization, and business analysis. All three of the Travelers representatives graduated from Eastern with majors in Business Information Systems. Through the use of their firsthand experience of both in the past as interns and currently as career employees from Eastern and working at Travelers, the representatives were able to make a strong connection with the current students and provide lots of helpful information regarding the advantages of the program and how to succeed in an internship position.

The company representatives also introduced the current students to other program opportunities at Travelers. One of which is the Engineering Development Program (EDP), which is a yearlong program that is specifically focused on data engineering and software engineering. The reps stressed that this program is meant more for people who are certain about the role they

would like to pursue in the company. This is different from the BI&A LDP, which exposes members to more opportunities over a longer period of time. In both cases, the programs are meant to facilitate the transition into full-time work and expose new workers to company practices. The representatives stressed the importance to apply for these roles early, as hiring for the summer is typically done during the preceding fall.

The reps also provided students with information regarding the many different employee benefits offered by the company. Some of these include a hybrid schedule, and financial assistance for pursuing a graduate degree in a relevant field. The event ended with the representatives answering questions about the roles, the company itself, and the alumni's experiences working for Travelers. Students were also treated to pizza and pop in addition to the guidance they received from the representatives.







Biz-Tech Career Conversations

October 1st, 2025

The BIS-ITSA Club held their extremely popular Biz-Tech Career Conversation Event on October 1st, 2025, in the Johnson Room of the J. Eugene Smith Library. This event is a renowned event for any Biz-Tech students because of the amount of valuable information you can extract from this event. Alumni and representatives from companies such as Travelers, Cigna, Davies Group, General Dynamics (Electric Boat), and Hartford Healthcare along with many others attended the event including the AVP of Data and Analytics Strategic Sourcing and Real Estate, Steve Logan, from The Hartford.

The event was held from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM and had numerous different tables that students could sit at with alumni or employers from the corresponding career field the table specified. Students had the chance to move between the tables, rotating every 12 minutes to encourage in-depth discussions with representatives from companies such as Travelers, Cigna, Davies Group, General Dynamics (Electric Boat), and Hartford Healthcare along with many others.

The tables consisted of:

- “AI Business & Cloud Computing”
- “Application Development”
- “Business Analyst Consulting & Product Management”
- “Business Analytics & Intelligence”
- “Data Engineering & Data Wrangling”
- “FinTech & Accounting Technologies”
- “Healthcare Information Systems & Healthcare Information Management”
- “Networking & Cyber Security”
- “Operations & Supply Chain Management & Advanced Manufacturing”
- “Project Managers and Agile/Scrum Masters”

Given the long list of different career paths, students had many opportunities to get to talk with alumni about what their jobs consist of to get more of an understanding of potential career paths that they might be interested and some that they might not have thought about prior to the event. This was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the different sectors of Information Systems and to get more of a concrete idea and goal of where they might want to end up after graduation. It also gave them a great way to figure out the skills they need to focus on depending on the roles they are interested in.

The event this year had an attendance of over 70 students, making it one of the most attended BIS-ITSA Club events of the whole semester, although we did not have a sign in sheet at the beginning of the event.



FinTech & Accounting Technologies (Below)





Project Managers – Agile Projects – Scrum Masters (Above)



AI Business & Business Cloud Computing (Above)

Data Engineering & Data Wrangling (Below)





Business Cloud Applications, AWS, Ecommerce. & Web Development (Above)



Healthcare IS/IT & Healthcare Information Management (Above)

Business Analyst & Consulting – Product Manager (Below)





Application Development (Above)

Healthcare IT/IS Healthcare Information Management (Below)



Business Analytics & Intelligence – Data Science (Below)





Business Analyst & Consulting – Product Manager (Above)



Business Analytics & Intelligence – Data Science (Below)





Business Analytics & Intelligence – Data Science (Above)

Data Engineering & Data Wrangling (Below)



Business Analyst & Consulting – Product Manager (Below)





Operations & Supply Chain Management IT & Advanced Manufacturing (Above)

Cyber Security – Network Administration – Tech Support (Below)



Business Analyst & Consulting – Product Manager (Below)





Cyber Security – Network Administration – Tech Support (Above)

AI Business & Cloud Computing (Below)



Business Analytics & Intelligence – Data Science (Below)





Operations & Supply Chain Management IT & Advanced Manufacturing (Above)

Database Administration & SQL – Data Architecture (Below)



Advanced Manufacturing Presentation

October 16, 2025

On Thursday, October 16th from 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM, the BIS-ITSA club, joined by other BIS, Business, and Computer Science majors, were visited by two alumni who work in the advanced manufacturing industry. The alumni were John Connolly (Senior Manager, Commodity Integration), who works at RTX, and Ryan Connolly (Systems Engineer, Subcontractor Management), who works at Electric Boat. Both John and Ryan graduated from Eastern with degrees in Business Information Systems.

Most of the information session focused on how both alumni felt that they were well prepared to start their jobs due to the education they received at Eastern. They highlighted how certain courses gave them exposure to the same types of data that they deal with on a daily basis. These courses included:
BIS 379 - Data Wrangling

BIS 370 - Systems Analysis & Design

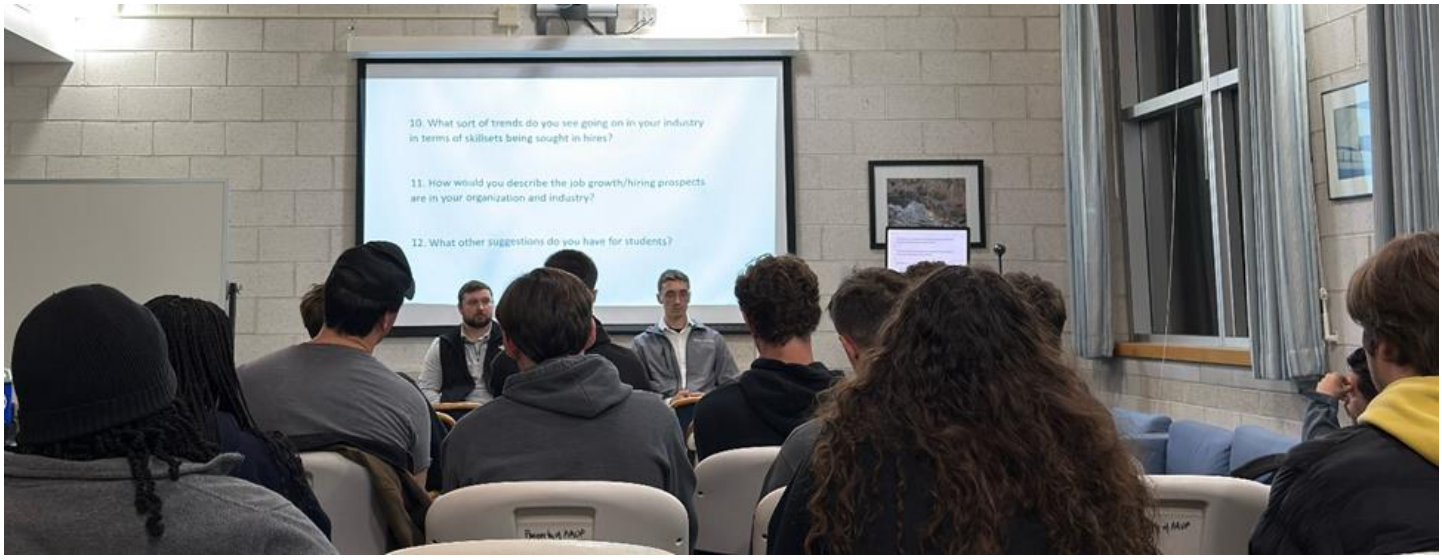
BIS 373 - Business Database Management

BIS 437 – Rapid IT Development Management

OSC 260 – Operations Management

Additionally, the alumni spoke on the importance of understanding the business context behind the data. Both of their roles involve speaking to people on many different teams; some of whom are less technically oriented, so being able to communicate the meaning behind data and how it provides business value is integral to both of their roles.

The meeting ended with students asking questions about each alumni's role in their company as well as general questions about the companies. Many students were interested in hearing about career opportunities as advanced manufacturing is a popular route to go for students with knowledge in information systems, operations management, as well as finance Students were also treated to pizza, pop, and cookies for the event.




10. What sort of trends do you see going on in your industry in terms of skillsets being sought in hires?
11. How would you describe the job growth/hiring prospects are in your organization and industry?
12. What other suggestions do you have for students?

BIS 437 – Rapid IT Development Management, Town of Windham Projects

Fall 2025

Recently the BIS department has teamed up with the Town of Windham to work on multiple municipal IT Projects to help develop the municipality to use more modern techniques and tools regarding their Information Technology, Financial Technology, and Fire Department Technology. This semester so far, we have talked to multiple town officials such as Robert Zarnetske the Town Manager, Ronald Palmer Jr. the Fire Chief, Doug Lary one of the Directors on the Taxing District Board of Directors for Willimantic, and Lisa Madden the Regional Revenue Collector.

During our first discussion with them, we were able to get brief understanding of what they were looking for to help them with their daily activities and to help them be more efficient to make up for the limited number of resources the municipality has to work with. Some ideas that Rob Zarnetske providididedd us with are the following two projects:

Windham Document Access & Digitization Initiative (WDADI)

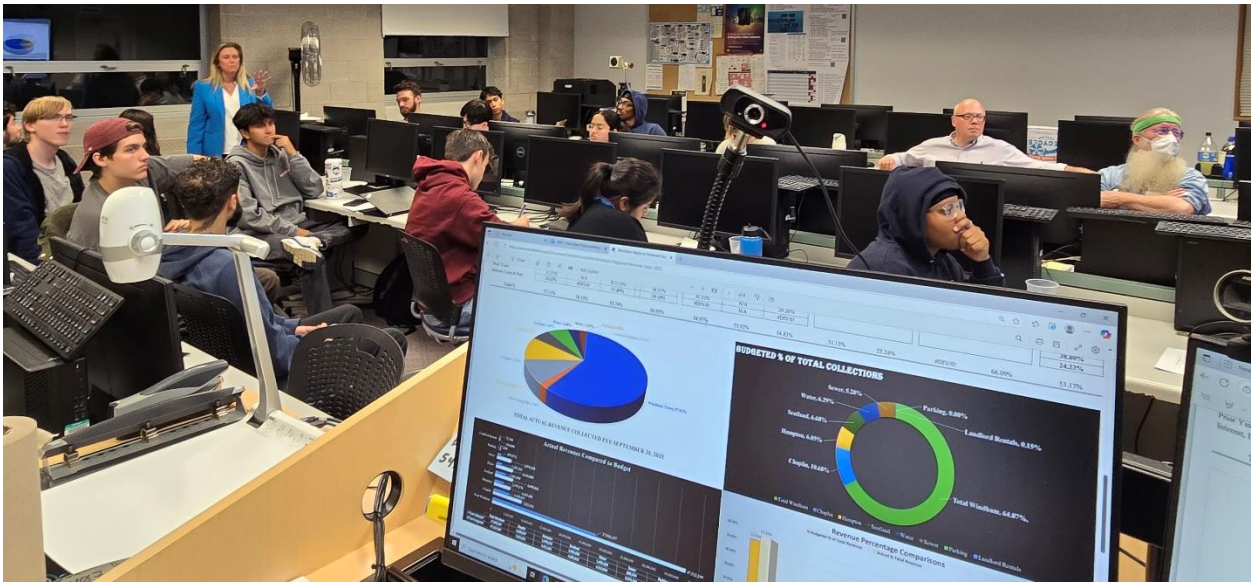
The objective of this project will be to digitize, organize, and publish the Town of Windham's public records, making them searchable, accessible, and easy to navigate. We will be using Toshiba OCR, Microsoft Teams for meeting transcription, RingCentral AI Receptionist for information capture from FAQs and documents, and CivicPlus for public access, while training municipal employees for ongoing sustainability

Windham Online Project Dashboard – With and Without ChatGPT Assistant

This project consists of creating a publicly accessible project dashboard on windhamct.gov using Microsoft Project for the web as the single source of truth, displayed in CivicPlus via a user-friendly interface for publishing or unpublishing content. Having two potential plans gives the Town leadership the option between aa low-cost, solely dashboard deployment, or a higher-cost AI integrated solution that improves community engagement and information retrieval.

Lisa Madden expressed concerns about efficiency in the municipality regarding developing new tools to improve transparency in the Town's financial reporting, while Fire Chief Palmer discussed the implementation of an AI module within the departments medical call software system.




BUDGETED % OF TOTAL COLLECTIONS
Sewer, 5.28%
Water, 4.29%
Sanitat, 4.68%
Hampton, 6.85%
Chaplin, 10.68%
Parking, 0.88%
Landlord Rentals, 0.15%
Total Windham, 64.87%
Revenue Percentage Comparisons



BIS-ITSA Club Fair Wednesday January 28th, 1:00-3:00pm Betty Tipton Room

BIS-ITSA Club's goal is to propel students to achieve career success in advancing their opportunities through our variety resources of resume building, mock interviews, networking events, tech info session to further push our members and into the Business/Tech industry within and across state lines. Business Information Systems (BIS) integrates technology, people, and processes to enable businesses to gather, process, store, and distribute information effectively and efficiently. Through this approach, this assists organizations in enhancing decision-making, increasing efficiency, and managing data more effectively. Despite competing with larger institutions, Eastern BIS students consistently achieve high rankings in national IT skill competitions each year and job placements. Looking ahead, the BIS-ITSA Club is working to introduce new initiatives, including resuming more community-focused tech service-learning projects and additional company visits for students such as Google.

At the Spring 2026 Student Club Fair, held on Wednesday, January 28th, from 1:00PM-3:00PM in the Betty Tipton Room of the Student Center. Several BIS E-Board members and club members were present to promote the club. Sam Hurlburt and Coleman Tandler all played a crucial role at our club table, each person taking shifts throughout the duration of the club fair. The E-Board members present engaged with students and highlighted the benefits of joining the BIS-ITSA Club, garnering over 29 signatures from interested students and collecting emails for notifying those students of upcoming events.



BIS-ITSA Employability Jump Start Wednesday January 28th, 5:30-8:00pm Webb 358 & 410

The BIS-ITSA Club hosted its first Employability Jumpstart Event on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, from 5:30 to 8:00pm in Webb Hall rooms, 358 – Faculty Lounge and 410 labs. The event drew 19 undergraduate students, who made quick work of multiple boxes of pizza and pop. The primary goal of the Employability Jumpstart is to give newer college students timely, business-technology focused guidance, support, and resources. These insights come from BIS program alumni, employers, senior BIS students, and faculty, all aimed at helping students become better prepared to interview, secure internships, and obtain full-time job offers. The event was organized into six topic-based venues. The first, held in Webb Hall 358 Faculty Lounge, focused on "Employer/Alumni QNA about the current Industry and internships" Representatives and alumni from The Hartford, and Travelers shared practical advice to help students strengthen their chances of landing internships. The next section displays four venues, which took place in the large Webb 410 study lab and were divided into themed areas: **"LinkedIn/Handshake"** (northwest quadrant), focused on building a professional presence and network

"Strategies on Courses & CLEP/DSST" (northeast quadrant), emphasizing course selection aligned with career goals

"Resumes and Job Searches" (southeast quadrant), aimed at improving positioning for internships and jobs

"GitHub, ePortfolios, & Certifications" (southwest quadrant), highlighting ways to showcase and validate technical skills.

At each of these stations, teams of BIS seniors offered personalized advice, helped students set up relevant tools, and made recommendations based on their own experiences and the interests of each attendee. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing interests in seeing the event offered again next year.




Employability
Jumpstart
Strategies Courses
Majors/Minors/Conc.
CLEP/DSST Tests




Employability
Jumpstart
GitHub &
Certifications

BIS-ITSA Resume Preparation Wednesday February 4th, 5:30-7:30pm Webb 407

On Wednesday, February 4th, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, the BIS-ITSA club hosted their “Resume Prep” workshop to get both members of the club, and anyone interested in the field of biz-tech a head start on how they can write a resume that both stands out and highlights the best aspects of their education. The Spring Resume Prep workshop gathered students at the intersection of business and technology. Dr. Citurs has a long history in the field of biz-tech and has fostered great connections with a plethora of major companies in Connecticut, who agree that the overall format of the biz-tech resumes from Eastern are superb. The real importance and benefits of this workshop happen a week later on February 12th, when former biz-tech alumni from different Connecticut companies visited the campus to provide feedback on the newly crafted resumes. Throughout the presentation, many valuable tips were given, some of them include: relevant skills, coursework and projects one should present on their resumes, formatting options such as modifying the margins and changing vertical spacing to fit more content on your resume, along with organizing skills and coursework into tables, then deleting the borders to give it a clean and structured look. This workshop is held a few weeks every semester, along with pizza, cookies, and pop being provided.




EXIT
EXIT
VP

BIS-ITSA Resume Writing Workshop Wednesday February 11th, 5:30-7:30pm Webb 410

On Wednesday, February 12th, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, the BIS-ITSA Club hosted their fall resume writing workshop. This is a follow-up event from the resume preparation workshop, which allows students to further refine their resumes and get professional advice on how to best format and present their accomplishments to employers. This event featured both company representatives and Eastern alumni, who work with several major companies in Connecticut, including The Hartford, Travelers, Arch Insurance Group, Hass Automation, and ISO New England. Those in attendance were given a unique opportunity to participate in a one-on-one session with an alumnus and receive personalized feedback on the strengths of their resumes as well as areas for improvement. In addition to this feedback, students learned key strategies for making their resumes stand out, such as using specific keywords, quantifying their work experience, highlighting business and technology skill sets, and showcasing projects from both academic and extracurricular experiences. In today's job market, where companies often receive hundreds of resumes for a single position, having a well-crafted resume that stands out from the competition is essential. The BIS-ITSA Club hosts this event each semester to provide Eastern students with a competitive edge and greater confidence when applying for these opportunities. Beyond serving as a valuable professional networking event, it also allows students to gain deeper insight into the skill sets that Connecticut employers are actively seeking for specific roles



BIS-ITSA Mock Interviews with Alumni & Reps

February 18th, 5:30-7:30pm Webb 410

On Wednesday, February 18th, the BIS-ITSA Club hosted the Spring 2026 Mock Interviews event. This event is catered towards Eastern Students with an interest in the field of Biz-Tech and hoping to sharpen their interviewing skills. The Mock Interview event featured both company representatives and Eastern alumni from several major companies in Connecticut such as The Hartford, Travelers, Hass Automation, and Mohegan Sun. Many of the alumni who were present at this event have attended this same event in prior years as students and are now frequently part of the interviewing teams for their respective companies. Thus, the questions asked, and the overall experience of the event are representative of actual interviews at these companies. This event aligns with the recent Resume Writing Workshop, as students can present their refined resumes to interviewers. The questions they face are both based on the content of their resumes and typical questions asked in Biz-Tech interviews. The interview structure mirrors the usual first-round interviews conducted at alumni companies. Students gain valuable insights into their performance and receive good feedback on how to improve their responses to certain questions. This event allows students to connect with interviewers from companies that Eastern has a good reputation with. It also gives students a safe environment to gain confidence in being interviewed, test their interviewing skills, and obtain constructive feedback. These mock interviews are held every semester in Webb 410, and along with having pizza, pop, and cookies, gives students much needed help and a boost in confidence to succeed in their interviews!




6:36





BIS-ITSA Travelers Analytics Case Competition Kickoff
February 25th, 3:00-4:00pm Webb 358

On Wednesday, February 25th, Travelers hosted its annual Analytics Kickoff, introducing students to the world of data-driven decision-making and innovative problem-solving. This event served as an opportunity for students to learn more about Travelers' case competition, an annual challenge where participants tackle real-world business problems using analytics and strategic thinking in-person at one of Travelers agencies in Hartford, CT. During the kickoff, students were introduced to key competition details, including the timeline to submit their application and an outline as to how the day would go if chosen at Travelers. If chosen, students would be in teams across different CT universities and receive help from a Travelers mentor who is skilled in certain technical applications and software.

Attendees of the kickoff also had the opportunity to engage with Eastern Alumni's. Students were shown which practices and habits one needs in business insights and analytics to effectively approach the application for the competition. The event fostered valuable networking, allowing students to connect with company representatives. With business insights and analytics playing a crucial role in today's business landscape, events like this provide students with a competitive edge by enhancing their problem-solving, data analysis, and presentation skills. The Travelers Analytics Kickoff not only set the stage for the upcoming competition but also equipped students with the knowledge and confidence to excel in the field of business insights and analytics





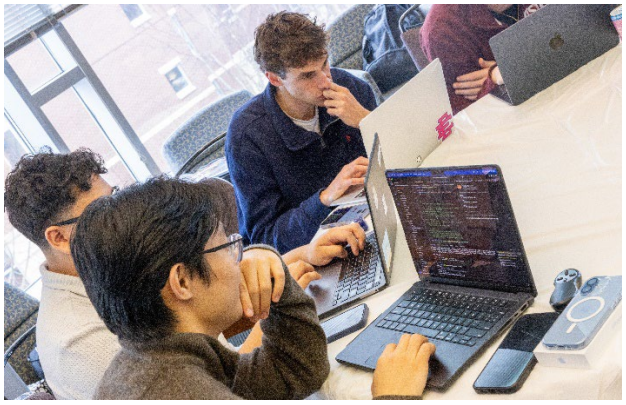

Introductions
SUPERVISOR


participate in the annual Travelers Case
Data &
Analytics
Challenge

BIS Program Students Sweep Sparkathon!
March 7-8, 2026

The first annual two-day Sparkathon to promote entrepreneurs and coders to create a software product that solves real world problems was held on Saturday/Sunday, March 7th & 8th. The event kicked off in Science Building Room 301on Saturday with participants using other breakout rooms on campus over the course of the weekend. Most of the students participating in it were majoring/minoring in Computer Science and/or Business Information Systems (BIS).





These individuals were tasked with building a full-stack application that could benefit users. All the participants were given Saturday to create and deploy their project ideas with the guidance of Artificial Intelligence. On Sunday, all of the participants demoed their projects in front of the Social Spark Judges, which included Raymond LaPointe, Gabriel Arevalo, Norbu Ciren, Nathan Coleman, Jordi Cassar, Jake Thompson, and Kylah Bilheimer.

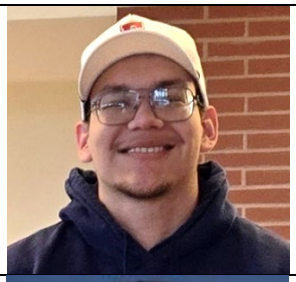
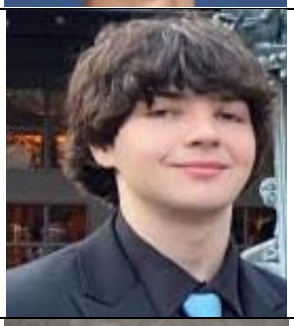






The presentations to the judges were on Sunday afternoon, in Webb 110 auditorium. Each of the student contestants were given 15 to 30 minutes for their presentations, which was

followed by additional questions from the judges and the audience. After deliberation by the judges, the Sparkathon competition winners were announced. The top finishers were as follows:

1st Place "Class Rewrite"	**Christian Rodriguez** dual majors in BIS & Computer Science	
2nd Place "Open Hour"	**Joey Caruk** Computer Science major and BIS minor	
3rd Place (tie) "Workbout"	**Billy Heller** dual majors in BIS & Business Administration	
3rd Place (tie) "SolarSail"	**Alex Saranich** dual majors in BIS & Computer Science	

BIS-ITSA Club Win at the Mid-West Region 2026 Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan



From March 25th-29th ten members of the BIS-ITSA Club (Business Information Systems – Information Technology Students of America) along with their advisor, Dr. Alex Citurs, participated in the 2026 annual ITSA Mid-West Collegiate Computing Conference (MWC3) hosted by Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This year there was no National Information Technology Students of America conference (USITCC), since the ITSA national organization decided to focus and promote the regional conferences this year. Therefore, our BIS-ITSA club was invited to join the ITSA Midwest Region and attend its conference. This year's MWC3 included universities/colleges such as: Michigan State University (51,838 students), University of Iowa (31,563 students), Grand Valley State University (22,035 students), Western Michigan State University (17,605 students) etc. This year, Texas State University (44,596 students) decided to visit and attend the Mid-West regional conference this year rather than attend the Region 3 (Mid-South) conference to which they belong. The BIS-ITSA Club for Eastern Connecticut State University (4,355 Students) successfully competed and won/placed in the following five competition areas:

Data Analytics I With MS Office

First Place
Allison Kazmier and Edon Selimaj

Second Place
Gage Durate and Sam Hurlburt

Data Analytics II with Tableau

Second Place
Emily Meagher and Billy Heller

Third Place
Alexander Saranich and Edon Selimaj

Honorable Mention
Allison Kazmier and Jacob Morales

PC Troubleshooting

Third Place
Jacob Morales

Data Analytics II with Excel

Honorable Mention
Gage Durate and Sam Hurlburt

Business Solutions Using Generative AI

First Place
Emily Meagher and Billy Heller

Overall, all our members did an outstanding job in representing Eastern Connecticut State University in a wide variety of contests against schools with at least twice to over ten times the

number of students as Eastern. Student team members feel that not only does the BIS Program teach concepts and hands-on skills for databases, systems analysis, applied business data analysis, and cloud/AI, but it also uniquely prepares them for future biz-tech careers. Connecticut employers actively seek out students that demonstrate successful application of these skillsets in real-world problem-solving situations such as displayed by the BIS-ITSA team members' results at the 2026 MWC3 conference!

All ten of the BIS-ITSA conference team members are earning bachelor's degree in Business Information Systems (BIS) along with other majors and minors. The BIS-ITSA 2026 MWC3 conference team consisted of the following ten student members:

Student	Major(s) (Concentration)	Minor	Year
Jordi Cassar	BIS, CSC		Sophmore
Gage Duarte	BIS, Fin (Invest)	BUAL	Senior
Billy Heller	BIS, Bus Adm(Mrkt)		Sophmore
Sam Hurlbert	BIS, Math (DSC)	BUAL	Senior
Allison Kazmier	BIS	BUAL ACC	Junior
Emily Meagher	BIS, DSC (BUAL)		Sophmore
Jacob Morales	BIS	BUAL	Junior
Christian Rodriguez	BIS, CSC		Sophmore
Alex Saranich	BIS, CSC	BUAL	Junior
Edon Selimaj	BIS, Bus Adm (Mgmt)		Senior

Legend:
BUAL- Business Analytics
ACC- Accounting
DSC- Data Science
CSC- Computer Science
FIN- Finance
Bus Adm- Business Admin



(See more MWC3 Conference pictures next page)

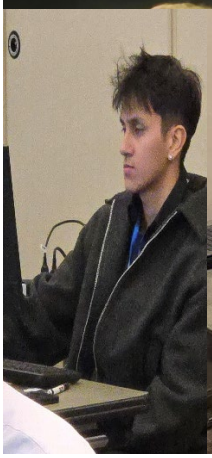














Hartford Info Session Tuesday, March 31st
Webb 358

On Tuesday, March 31st, 3 The Hartford representatives: Justin Morreau (Eastern Alumni), Joe Hines (Eastern Alumni), and Sarah Bobinski presented their info session in Webb 358 Faculty Lounge which gathered around 18 students with pizza and pop provided; this event emphasized the career opportunities offered at The Hartford to the students at Eastern such as the Early Immersion Program which is a 3 day program which allows sophomore students to immerse themselves in The Hartford's work culture early on as a way to allow the students to get a headstart on networking opportunities.



Sarah (University Recruiter) setup a panel like questionnaire for Eastern Alumni's Justin (Software Engineer) and Joe Hines (Associate in Tech and Operations) to answer a set of common questions people would ask, throughout the panel students would ask a variety of different questions such as skills in which is needed for one the stand apart from the rest when participating in such programs that The Hartford offers. The questions set up students with valuable insights on work life and flow within the company and the skillsets needed to be part of the team and what makes a potential employee valuable. Afterwards, students were encouraged (especially to current sophomores and juniors) to apply for the internship positions. Plus, with the current competitive environment, it is important for students to apply as early as possible, when given the availability.

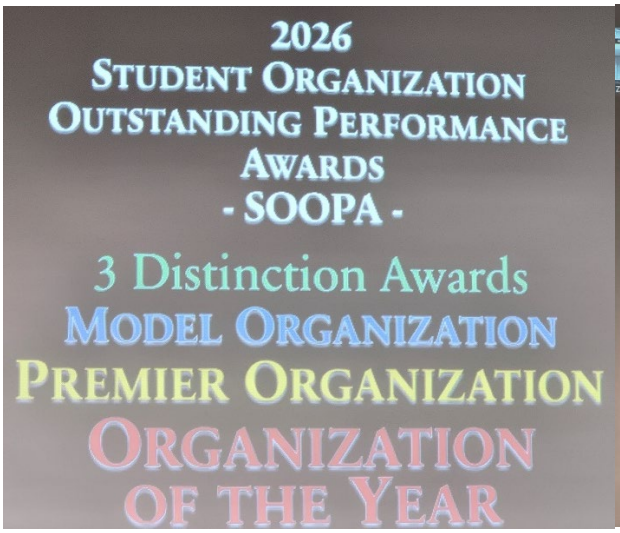



Joe Hines
ECSU '24
Tech & Operations Program
Associate

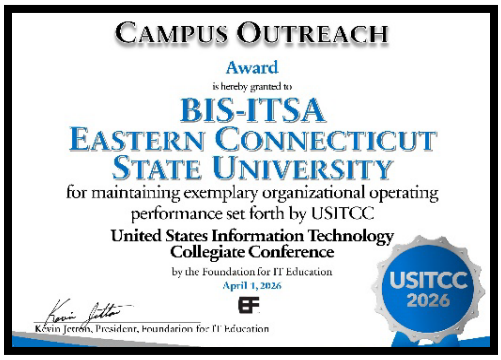

DRAPER

BIS-ITSA Club Receives - National ITSA 2026 Campus Outreach Award

On Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 5:15 PM members of the BIS-ITSA Club gathered in Webb Hall 311 to watch and virtually attend the national Information Technology Students of America affiliate (chapter) awards ceremony. The awards were given to collegiate school affiliates/clubs for exhibiting in the calendar year of 2025 exemplary organizational operating performance as set forth by the United State Information Technology Collegiate Conference group of the Foundation for IT Education. Collectively the Student Organization Outstanding Performance Awards are known as SOOPA, consisting of three annual categories of Distinction Awards, as well as the annual awards for Model Organization Award, Premier Organization Award, and Organization of the Year. This year Eastern's BIS-ITSA received the "Campus Outreach Award" for its outstanding efforts at engaging its larger school community, alumni, employers, as well as the surrounding region. Besides resume and mock interview workshops and company info sessions, the BIS-ITSA Club, was recognized for its outreach through special events such as educational guest speakers, Biz-Tech Career Conversations (speed-dating by career area alumni), and the Employability JumpStart (upper-level students and alumni sharing insights and wisdom with First-Year through Junior students as well as other events involving non-club/BIS students and a wide range of greater ECSU and eastern Connecticut community members.







BIS-ITSA Travelers Business Insights & Analytics Info Session Thursday April 2nd, Webb 358

On Thursday, April 2nd, from 5:30 to 7:30 PM, three representatives from Travelers Jake Cohen, Jacob Hartman, and Brandon Steen met with BIS-ITSA club members at the Webb Hall Faculty Lounge. They were joined by students from the Business Information Systems, Computer Science, and Data Science programs to discuss career opportunities at Travelers.

The representatives focused on the company's Business Insights and Analytics Leadership Development Program (BI&A LDP), which offers both internship and full-time positions. This three-year rotational program allows participants to gain experience across various areas within insurance data, including decision science, data engineering, GIS, data visualization, and business analysis.

All three speakers are Eastern Alumni who have earned a degree in Business Information System as a major or a minor as well as Computer Science. Drawing from their own experiences as former interns and current employees at Travelers, they connected well with students and shared valuable insights about the program's benefits, as well as tips for succeeding in an internship.



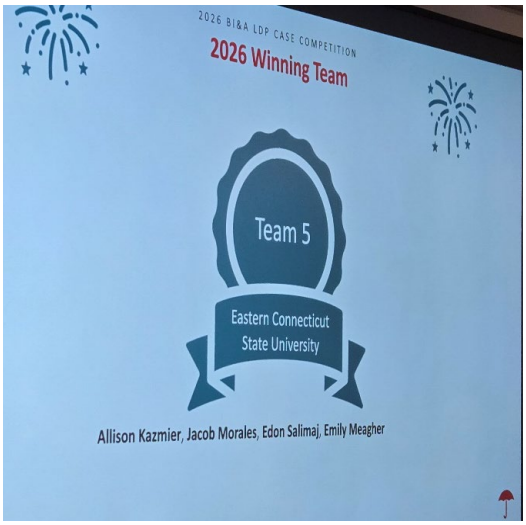
Eastern BIS Undergrad Team Wins Travelers 2026 Business Analytics Case Competition

On Friday, April 3, 2026, four Eastern Business Information Systems undergraduate students won the Travelers 2026 Business Analytics case competition. They competed against five four-person teams: two team from UConn and one team each from Central Connecticut State University, University of Hartford, and Quinnipiac University. Each of the five other teams had two graduate students per team, except Quinnipiac with just one. Notably, Eastern's winning BIS team was made up entirely of undergraduate students. All four of Eastern's members are pursuing a major in BIS along with complementary second majors and/or minors. The team members were Allison Kazmier (Junior), Emily Meagher (Sophomore), Jacob Morales (Junior), and Edon Selimaj (Senior).

The daylong event was held at Travelers headquarters in Hartford. During the event, the teams were given anonymized insurance data to analyze. Based on their technical analysis, the students were asked to present their findings to a panel of industry experts. Their presentations included recommendations to Travelers' management on how to improve performance outcomes and the reasoning behind their conclusions. At the end of each team's presentation, the judges asked, clarifying and probing follow-up questions. At a networking reception late in the afternoon, Eastern's team was announced as the winner of the 2026 Travelers competition. Congratulations to Eastern's team of BIS students!!!



More pictures next page

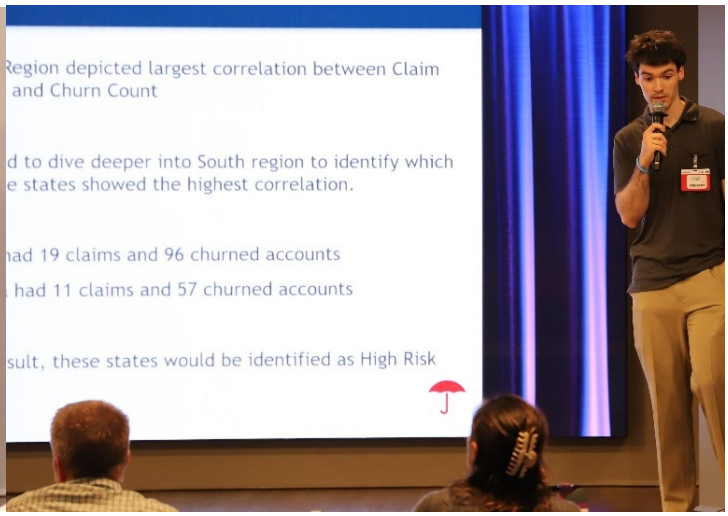

2026 BI&A LDP CASE COMPETITION
2026 Winning Team
Team 5
Eastern Connecticut State University
Allison Kazmier, Jacob Morales, Edon Salimaj, Emily Meagher










Region depicted largest correlation between Claim
and Churn Count
d to dive deeper into South region to identify which
e states showed the highest correlation.
had 19 claims and 96 churned accounts
had 11 claims and 57 churned accounts
sult, these states would be identified as High Risk

BIS-ITSA How to Have a Successful Internship Wednesday April 8th, Webb 358

On Wednesday, April 8th, 2026. BIS-ITSA held a panel discussion from 5:30 to 7:30 PM with four Eastern BIS Program Alumni on how to have a successful internship. From left to right in the picture below are alumni:

Robyn Vetterkind – earned dual majors in BIS and DSC dual major along with Business Analytics minor. She interned at both General Dynamics/Electric Boat and The Hartford and now works as Development Security Operations Engineer in the Technology & Operations Leadership Development Program.

Ariel Daniel – graduated with a Data Science major with a Business Analytics Concentration and earned a BIS minor. Ariel interned at Sherwin Williams and now works at Boehringer Ingelheim as a Senior Systems Engineer.

Logan French - earned a BIS major with a Business Analytics minor along with a major in Business Economics. He interned at The Hartford in AI and is now there as a Data Analytics with Snowflake.

Brandon Steen - graduated with a major in Computer Science and dual minors in BIS and Business Analytics. He interned at Travelers in Business Insights and Analytics and now works at Travelers in the area of Business Insights Delivery working with SQL and Qlik for data and analytics value streams.

Sam Hurlbert – BIS-ITSA Club President, moderated the event and is completing a BIS major and Business Analytics minor along with a Mathematics major with a concentration in Data Science. He will be starting at Travelers this summer in Business Insights and Analytics.



The alumni panelists shared valuable insights on methods of getting the most out of an internship and what you should retain and learn while interning. The alumni stressed that a person should not worry about not knowing everything and that if you get stuck on a problem for more than 90 minutes to ask for help. All four alumni stressed that the companies expect you to learn and gain valuable knowledge to potentially become a full-time employee afterward. The alumni brought out that at some of the companies not only

does an intern have project or unit teammates but that often interns are assigned a mentor who had been an intern at the company and may have graduated from the BIS Program.



All of the alumni panelists stressed the importance of viewing an internship as if it were a 10-week to 3-month long interview. They also brought out the importance of professional networking and meeting with people within the organization to learn more about the organization and how it works as well as the business processes and technology systems. They stressed the importance of networking in a manner that is respectful of their time.



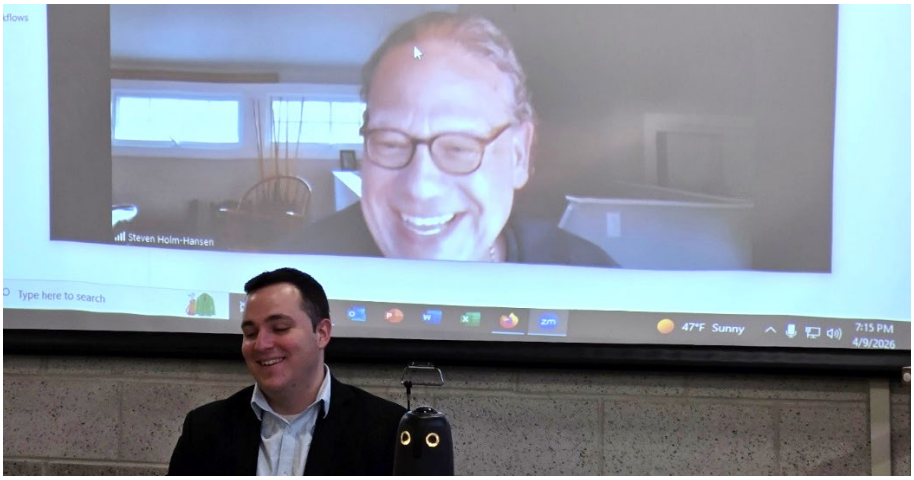
Overall, the alumni panelist stressed the importance while interning of taking advantage of and utilizing the resources available. Plus, they also urged students to find out what employers (both bosses and teammates) expect of them. Students attending the panel discussion felt that they gained valuable insights that would help them when interning.

Fintech Analytics Panel April 10, 2026

On Thursday evening, April 10th 2026, BIS-ITSA Club advisor, Dr. Citurs, and one-year appointment BIS Faculty member, Dr. Reay, organized a financial-technology (FinTech) panel as part of a Business Analytics grant speaker series. The FinTech panel consisted of two guest speakers. Greg Platosz, a Business Intelligence Manager Global Specialty at The Hartford insurance. Greg is a BIS and Finance dual major alumni. The other speaker was Steven Holm-Hansen, Vice President - Credit Risk at Synchrony. Synchrony, headquartered in Stamford is the largest provider of private label credit cards in the U.S. with $120 billion in total assets.



The speakers focused on four major themes in the answers to the questions by moderators Dr. Reay and Dr. Citurs. The first being that of what technology tools they used the most in their job roles. The most common non-AI tools used by both were SQL (extremely extensively) and MS Excel followed by PowerPoint, Python, SAS, dashboarding, pivot tables, and using agile frameworks (scrum and kanban). Both guest speakers stressed that they feel it more important to have a broad knowledge of different tools for BIS and analytics than focusing on deeper knowledge on only one tool, since that would limit students' internship and job options.



The second major theme was the growing use of generative AI and machine learning AI, along with the growing deployment of agentic AI at both organizations as well as across the finance sector. Both speakers mentioned multiple areas of their organizations adopting AI into more application settings and jobs roles. The third theme was what college learned skillsets they see as highly valuable and needed. In this area, database SQL and Excel skills top the list along with Data Wrangling skills to clean up and structure messy-dirty data mentioned by both speakers. Having agile/scrum project management skills were seen as needed by Greg, given its growing adoption for projects across the business world. Both speakers spoke of the ability to demonstrate solid problem-solving skills for complex situations, communicating effectively with people, and having good team skills as being very important. They brought out that coming to interviews as well as projects with energy, excitement as well as having done background research is something they look for when interviewing job/project-team candidates!

The fourth theme both Greg and Steve spoke to was that of the growing use of automation in structuring, cleansing, and modeling of data as well as for automating business processes and creating data pipelines. They brought out that the quality of business data models deteriorate overtime, and with changing economic conditions. This results in the need to enhance/refresh existing models as well as create new models and automate additional processes. Both Steve and Greg felt that solid foundational skills in SQL, MS Excel, PowerPoint are essential, along with the desire and ability to learn new skills and tools in cloud and AI. They both felt it was important to bring excitement to interviews, jobs, projects, and solving analytical data problems!

Connecticut FinTech and Financial Analytics related job prospects are currently relatively strong. Presently, there are 400 Financial Analyst jobs, and 1,842 financial analytics related jobs open in Connecticut, with average entry level job salaries between $55,000 to $73,000+.

For the financial industry, these FinTech analytics skills are particularly valuable, as automation and data modeling are increasingly used in areas like financial forecasting, risk analysis, investment decision-making, and or helping professionals make more accurate and efficient data-driven decisions.



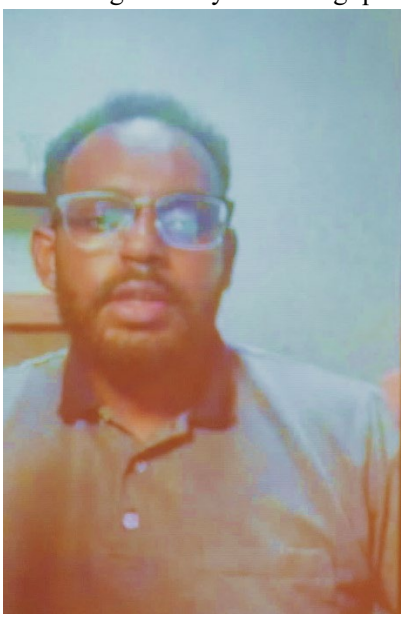
BIS-ITSA 2026 Spring Banquet May 8th

On Friday, May 8th, BIS-ITSA at 6:15 PM hosted its annual Spring Banquet to celebrate the accomplishments, contributions, and involvement of students and members throughout the academic year. The event provided an opportunity to recognize members for their achievements and participation within the club, while bringing together current students, faculty, alumni and company representatives from various industries.

The banquet was attended by more than 50 students and alumni, with alumni representatives participating from organizations such as Travelers, The Hartford, Electric Boat, XPO, and other companies. Their involvement provided students with valuable opportunities to network with professionals and learn about different career paths within the business and technology fields.

A highlight of the evening was a guest presentation from an Eastern Connecticut State University alumnus currently working at Google in the San Francisco – Silicon Valley area, Natnael Belay, Technical Program Manager – Chrome Generative AI. Nate (Natnael Belay) graduated in May 2020 with dual majors of BIS and Computer Science. Belay discussed the current business technology environment, industry trends, and the evolving opportunities and challenges facing professionals in the field. He stressed the extremely fast almost weekly rate of change and work environment due to AI. Belay stressed that students should develop not only their technical skills but also their critical thinking problem-solving and communication skills that can help them be better workers and more effectively leverage AI.

Below Left: Natnael Belay (BIS & CS 2020) – Google Technical Program Manager Chrome Generative AI.
Below Right: Belay answering questions from the audience moderated by Dr. Citurs





Natnael Belay focused in on Analytics and AI during a portion of his talk. Key aspects Belay brought out were the rapidly expanding ways that AI can help and assist with discovering, unearthing, integrating and cleansing data. He also brought out the many ways AI can assist with quickly writing computer code needed for initially developing good data analytics process flows. Nate also brought out the new ways that AI can assist in reducing the drudgework needed

for formatting and presenting data analytics visually as well as the rapidly ballooning amounts and variety of data that AI can quickly be analyzed.

Following the presentation, Nate interacted with students and faculty answered questions, providing valuable insight into careers and professional development strategies for business-technology related industries and career paths. When asked what technology skillsets and tools students should focus their learning on, Belay encouraged students to gain deep knowledge in a couple of skillset areas and tools and to acquire broad general skills in a wide variety of technology tools. Thus, Nate said this would demonstrate their ability to critically think, problem-solve, and learn as well as flexibility and adoptability to changing career/tech needs.

The event was catered by Chartwells was an Asian Buffet theme, with funding raised and obtained by the BIS-ITSA Club. The banquet created a welcoming and celebratory atmosphere for everyone in attendance. Overall, the Spring Banquet successfully brought together students, alumni, and industry professionals to celebrate the club's achievements, recognize member contributions, and strengthen connections between the Eastern BIS community and the professional world.





Above Left: Natnael speaking remotely from Google in California and answering audience questions.
Above Right: Some of the banquet audience listening Belay.

Below Left: Some of the BIS-ITSA 2025-2026 eBoard Officers receiving Certificates of Appreciation from Club President Sam Hurlburt and Dr. Citurs (Club Faculty Advisor.
Below Right: BIS-ITSA Club President Sam Hurlburt, hosting the awards ceremony program.





Summer 2026 BIS 490 – BIS Internship Class & Related Events

Exchanging Ideas, Tech-Tool Tips & Expertise and Strategies

The BIS 490 – BIS Internship class sessions on Tuesday evenings starting at 6:15 PM again incorporated on-campus in person class sessions held usually in Webb 407, with students joining in remotely when time/distance did not allow in person attendance. The BIS summer internships retain a mixed feeling of independent studies with individualized help, in classroom lectures with guest speakers and small group discussions, along with lunchtime/after work chatting over food with other students, alumni and company colleagues. All of this is done to help BIS students succeed in their internships, with the hopes of getting career position offers out of the internships or at least solid references from colleagues and bosses. The focus of the discussions and get togethers was to exchange internship experiences, strategies, and tech tool tips, and resource suggestions.

Dr. Citurs, BIS 490 Faculty Instructor, visited some of the companies/communities/areas where the BIS students were interning and working by having meetups over "come-n-go" lunches or in Zoom breakout room discussions. These "Dutch-treat" (no expense to Eastern) lunches and coffees allowed interning BIS students additional opportunities to obtain feedback and suggestions, from not only Dr. Citurs, but numerous BIS alumni working in a variety of biz-tech careers potentially within the same companies or other nearby companies or virtually through Zoom. The suggestions by Dr. Citurs and BIS alumni to the interns would often include how to improve their biz-tech skillsets, work performance, learn about new tech-tools, using and dealing with AI, and tech help websites. At these events BIS alumni shared with the current interning BIS students their strategies for dealing with these challenging technical and organizational issues. The BIS alumni also shared with Dr. Citurs their observations and perceptions of tech tools,



platforms, project trends, and best practices, for suggestions to be considered for future incorporation into content for BIS courses.

The Tuesday evening class sessions often had alumni guest speakers that are experts at the week's topics. BIS interning students can text, call or email, Dr. Citurs to get individualized tech help and advice not only during the class sessions and daytime, but evenings and weekends for more urgent and pressing issues they face in their internship projects and teams. Included in this writeup are a few pictures from guest speakers, breakout rooms, and casual-over food events held during Summer 2026





BIS alumni serving at guest speakers, panelists, Zoom small group discussants, and general advice givers for the BIS 490 Summer Internship class included; Brandon Berlin, Drew Cavar, Conor Chute, Jake Cohen, Logan French, Jacob Hartman, Sam Hurlburt, Michael Lauer, Felix Li, DJ Rizzo, Liam Shanley, Branden Steen, Robyn Vetterkind, Jamison Welch, and Mike Zisk. All of the BIS 490 students and Dr. Citurs are very grateful for the alumni's expertise, insights, and assistive mentorship.