

BIS-ITSA Club Warrior Welcome

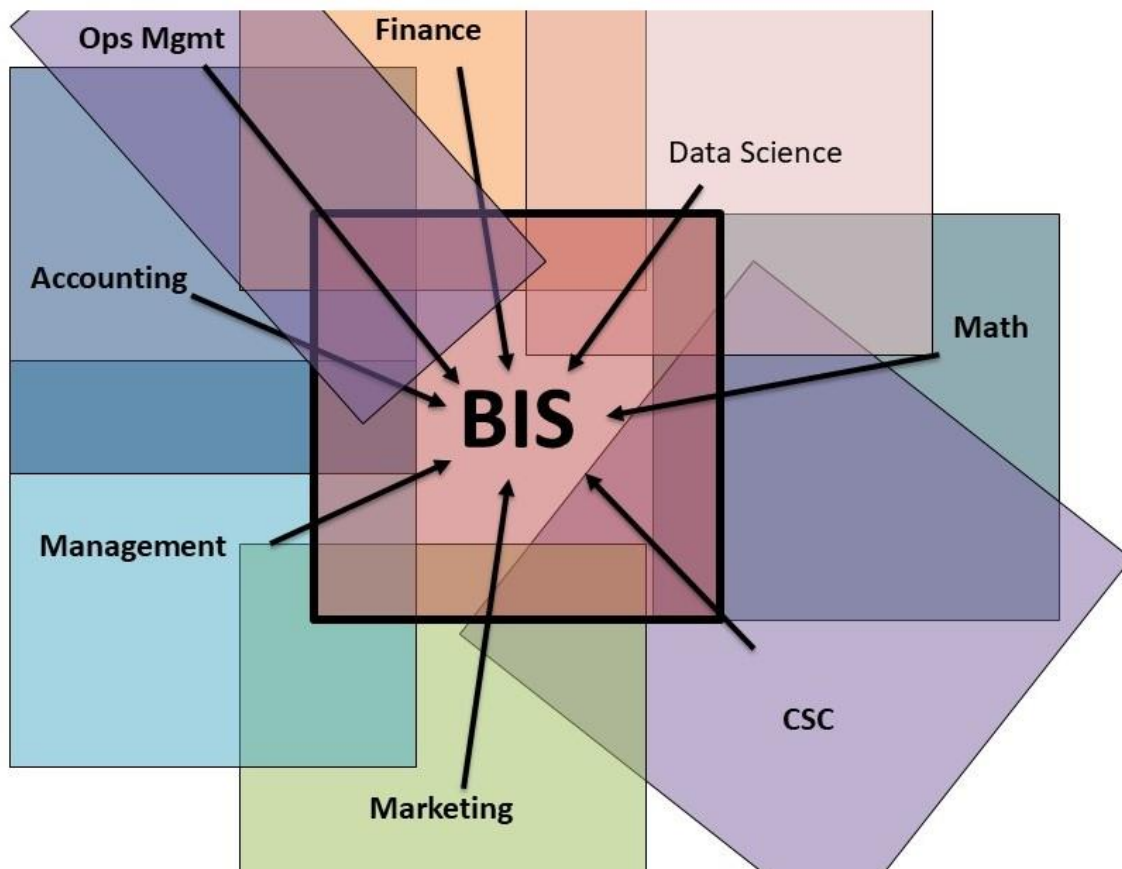
August 25, 2025

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.

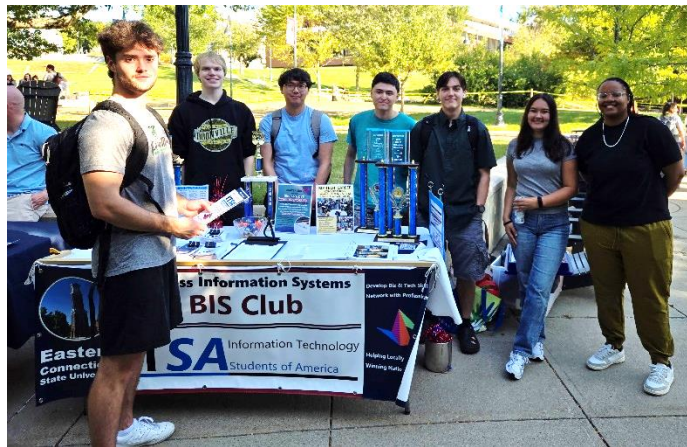


BIS-ITSA FALL 2025 Club Fair

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.



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.





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.



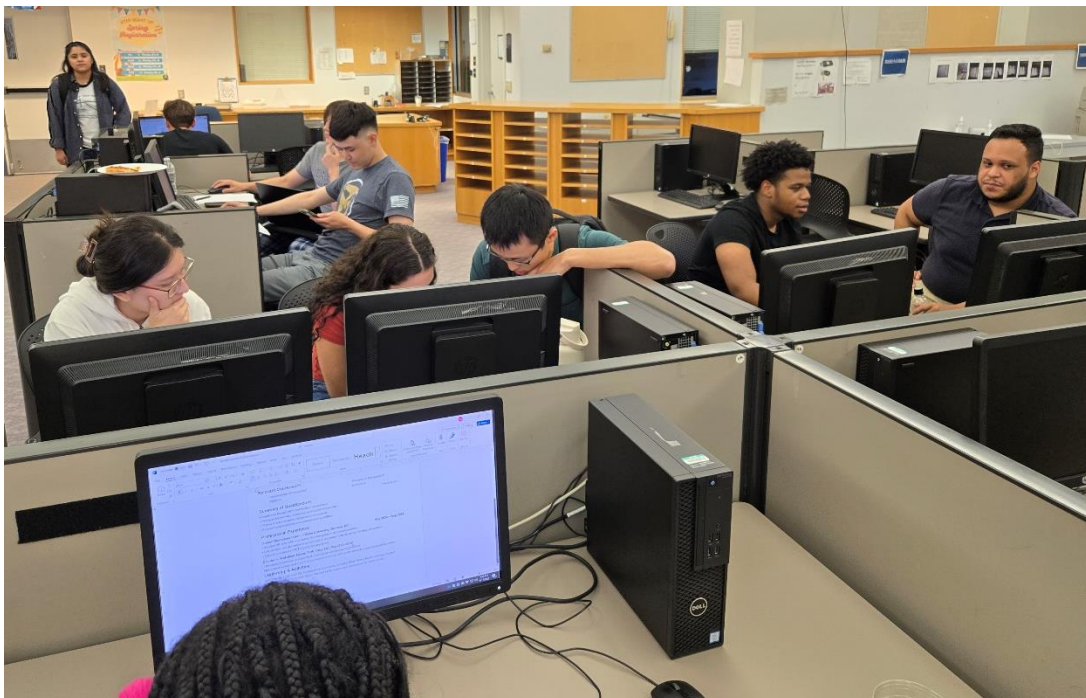
Resume Writing Workshop

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.







The Hartford Information Session

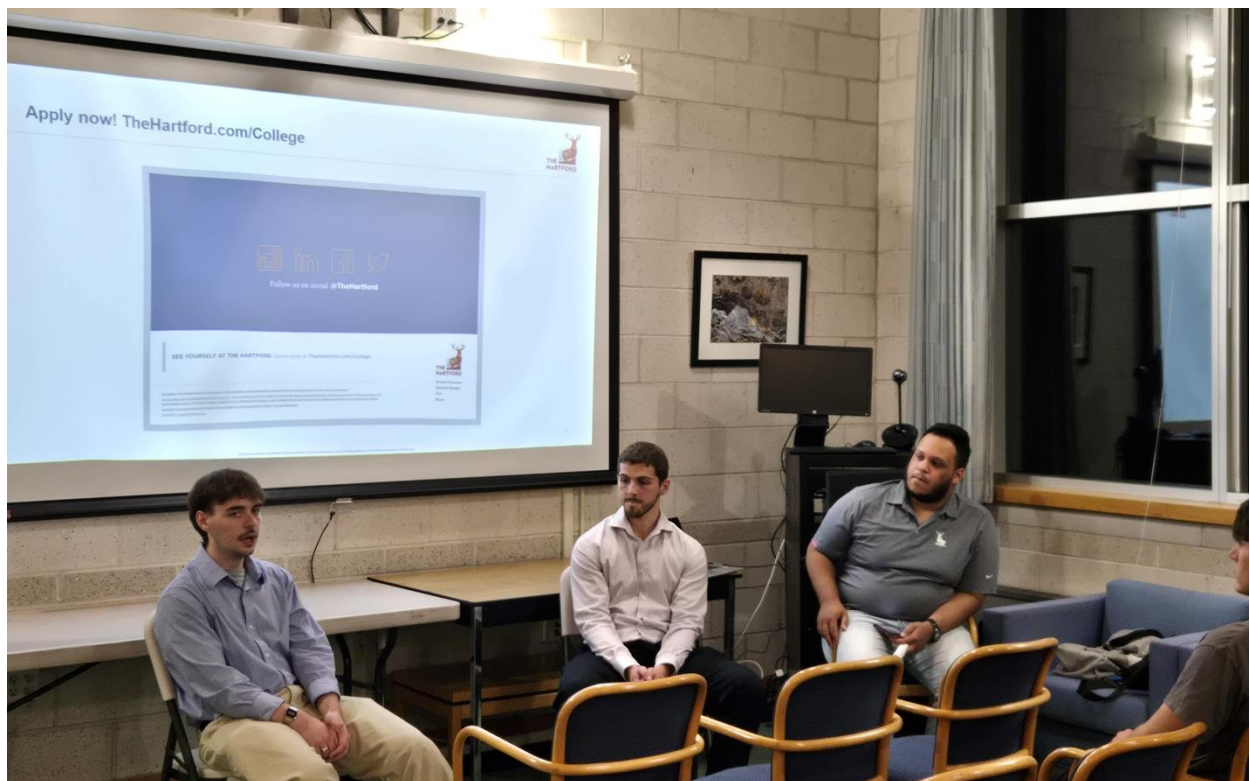
September 23, 2025

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.

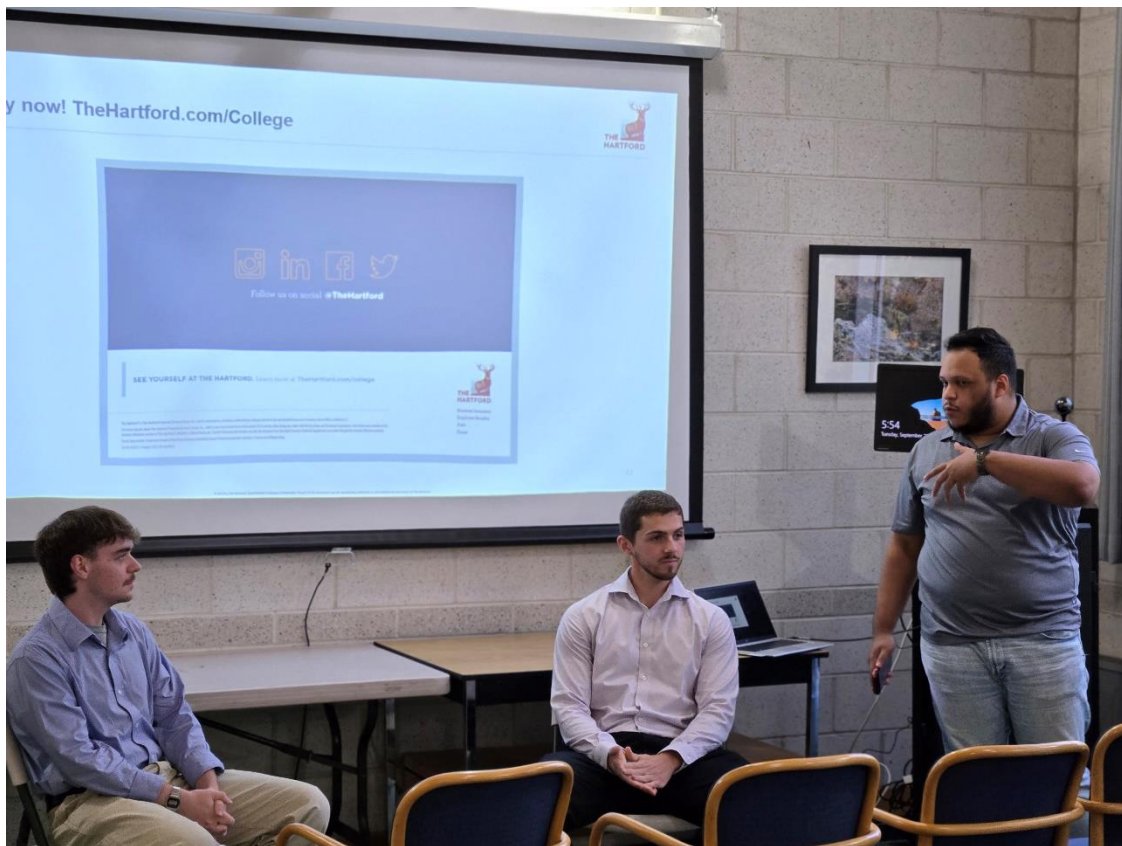
The PMD is an eighteen-month development program that exposes members to career areas such as product development, product management, business intelligence, and pricing analytics. The main focus of the program is to provide a combination of technical experience and business knowledge to become a well-rounded 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.







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 turnout 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



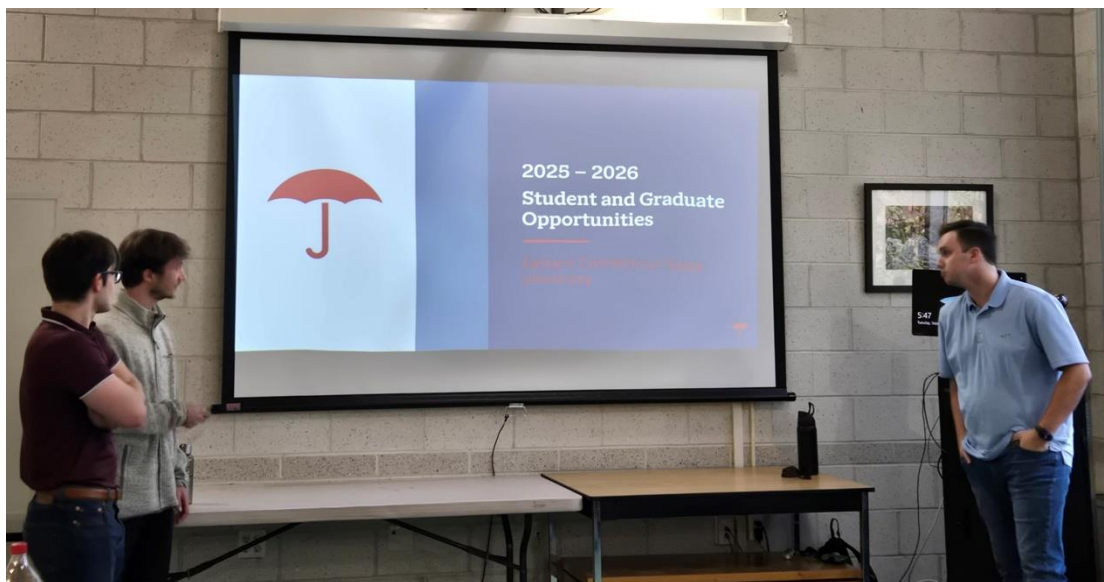
On September 30th from 5:30-7:30, three Travelers company representatives (Jake Cohen, James Conlin, and Brandon Steen) visited the BIS-ITSA club members in the Webb Hall Faculty Lounge, and were joined by other BIS, Computer Science, and Data Science students to talk about career opportunities at Travelers. 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.





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 provided 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 a 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.

