Adapting to Create Meaningful Connections to Industry

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APPCONNECT NW

A COLLABORATIVE NETWORK OF SEVEN COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE PROGRAMS IN SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT
APPCONNECT NW CONSISTS OF:

Green River College
North Seattle College
Lake Washington Institute of Technology
RTC Renton Technical College
Bellevue College
Cascadia College
Edmonds Community College

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A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

• A network of 7 community and technical colleges with BAS degrees in Software/App Development provided for:
  • Making a bigger impact
  • Multiplying opportunities
  • Amplifying our voice with Industry
WHAT IS A BAS DEGREE?

• +2 additional years after the completion of an associate degree
• Responsive to regional workforce demands
• Hands-on, technical programs
• Career preparation
• Serve a wide range of students
• Part of the talent pipeline in high-demand fields
EFFICIENTLY WORKING WITH THE TECH INDUSTRY

• Demand for workers locally is exceeding supply
  • Has helped make us less competitive and work as a team
• Industry has limitations on their time and capacity-so we become a one stop for them to connect with hundreds of students
• Companies need employees now
• Desire for a diverse workforce-which we can provide
HOW WE GOT STARTED

• NSF Funding
  • Division of Undergraduate Education, Advanced Technological Education (two-year college focus)
• Coordination Network
• 4 year project
• Faculty leadership- desire to regularly connect and collaborate
FIRST TWO YEARS FOCUS

• DACUM | Industry curriculum review
• High school engagement
• Industry participation on campus
• Meetings with major tech companies
• Growth mindset training
• Added two colleges to network
• Adjunct instructors
ENROLLMENT SNAPSHOT | 20-21

440 total students

36% students of color

300+ graduates to date

51% age 30 & over

19% Pell Grant

25% female

graduates to date
LIMITATIONS

• Consistent Connections to Industry
• Turn Over in Staffing
• Availability and ability of Tech Industry
• Difficulty building relationships and outreach to High Schools
• Students have limited connections to industry
• It is difficult to find Industry partners for Capstone projects
• Students feel unprepared for job search process
MOVING FORWARD

• Collaboration with Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA)
  • Provided Industry Representatives that helped guide curriculum
  • Always ready to collaborate and introduce
  • Set up Job Fair
  • College and Tech Council currently being developed
MOVING FORWARD

• Collaboration with Mentors in Tech (MinT)
  • Having immediate and practical ways industry can get involved
  • Minimizing their time and effort with maximum reward
  • Fills the gaps that students are experiencing
MOVING FORWARD

CONTINUING TO BUILD ON PAST RELATIONSHIPS

FINDING OUT WHAT IS POPULAR IN TECH - CLUBHOUSE
DISCUSSION

• Do you all have any experience or success stories in collaborating with Industry partners?
• How did you keep them engaged?
QUESTIONS?

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