

IBM Power Systems Academic Initiative

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IBM Power Systems user groups offer valuable benefits

Many thriving IBM Power Systems user groups are active around the world. The IBM Power Systems Academic Initiative (PSAI) team encourages colleges and universities to connect with these groups. Here are just a few of the many benefits:

- Schools, students and the IBM i businesses – all win!
- Mentor opportunities for students
- Students develop skills that are resume builders
- Connections made at monthly meetings and conferences can lead to employment for students
- IBM i businesses acquire needed talent

“Over the years, we’ve seen how beneficial these types of relationships can be,” said Peter Glass, program manager, IBM PSAL. “One example, in particular, is the relationship between Muskegon Community College (MCC) and Southeast Michigan IBM i User Group (SEMIUG). They have a long history of connecting students with unique learning and networking activities that have benefited the school, students and local IBM i businesses.”

Laura Ubelhor, SEMIUG president, agrees, “The connection between MCC and SEMIUG has been a big win for everyone. The community has benefited from the student resources and students have been able to make connections and find jobs.” She believes these experiences have encouraged the students and created a buzz within the community that shows jobs are readily available.

Back by Popular Demand

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Inspiring students outside of the classroom

“Exposing students to the possibilities beyond the classroom that the IBM i platform has to offer is so valuable,” shares Char Parker, instructor, MCC. “The conferences sponsored by our local user groups exemplify the close-knit and caring reputation of the IBM i community, and students are exposed to the reality of the viability and importance of the platform.”

She adds, “At MCC, students have made connections at conferences that have resulted in employment. In fact, three of my students were hired by the same company in the past two years.”

MCC students share Parker’s enthusiasm for working with the local user groups and attending their local events.

“As a student, it is highly valuable to be able to speak with those currently in the field. The mentoring I gained plus the knowledge from the sessions will unquestionably be used in my future career.”

“Getting involved in the IBM i community allowed me to experience business networking opportunities, which led to me finding employment at a great company.”

“The best experience (about attending conferences) was learning things that might never have been taught in the classroom, and more importantly, meeting people who are working in the field and getting tips from them.”

“I’m very thankful for my chance to be a part of the experience and I believe it’s a wonderful opportunity for any student looking for a leg up on the competition.”