Building Networks
We recently learned that Rob Peterson’s submission to the Mid-American Innovation in Education Competition, “Building Student Networks with LinkedIn: The Potential for Alumni Connections, Internships, and Jobs,” won first place. Congratulations, Rob!
Rob presented his winning project at the 2012 Mid-American Business Deans Association annual conference in Chicago in October.
We are very proud to have the 2012 winning innovation in education project from NIU!

Building Student Networks with LinkedIn: The Potential for Connections, Internships, and Jobs
Contributor: Dr. Robert Peterson
Networking is a chance to interact with people, build friendships or business partners, identify opportunities, and create value. Technology has made this process easier since individuals can readily contact others who were previously unknown. In the professional world, LinkedIn has become the standard way to build virtual and personal networks.
One innovative class exercise had students building profiles, garnering connections, joining groups, posting comments, and obtaining and writing letters of recommendations. The results were overwhelmingly positive with students exceeding the required mandates but, more importantly, they learned how to use networking tools to improve their knowledge, access to experts, and secured job offers based on their LinkedIn profile and presence.

Connect with us on LinkedIn

Networking by Water
The brisk weather and windy conditions in the city didn’t deter OM&IS alumni, guests and faculty that ventured out on Friday, October 5th for an architectural boat tour, followed by networking at Houlihan’s. The group learned the history of the Chicago River, appreciated the architecture adjacent to it, and treasured the city’s history after the Great Fire. The tour took place atop Chicago’s First Lady Cruise line. It was informative, entertaining and interactive.

Read more

An Era of Tax Uncertainty
Contributor: Dr. Kate Mantzke
“In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” — Benjamin Franklin, 1789
While Franklin’s observation about death and taxes is as true today as it was in 1789, there is significant tax uncertainty as 2012 comes to a close. Many ‘temporary’ U.S. tax rules that have been in force in recent years are about to expire.

A few of the more significant rule changes are summarized here.

Golden Can Winner
Congratulations to the Department of Management who won the Golden Can Award with 24 boxes. This year, we collected 94.5 boxes which will be donated to Northern Illinois Food Bank. We appreciate everyone’s contributions and would like to recognize the MBA Department for getting the Fast-Trak students involved in a friendly competition amongst themselves which reaped 12 boxes. Also, many of our student organizations helped in contributing this year. Our thanks go out to them as well. Perhaps next year we can hit a goal of 100 boxes to be donated!