

NISGTC BUZZ

January 2015

FROM THE DIRECTOR



The National Information Security Geospatial Technology Consortium is in its final year at Bunker Hill Community College. The grant has been instrumental in aiding the college to create programs which directly meet the needs of a growing Information

Technology sector's needs in Boston and the surrounding areas. Throughout the grant, industry, as well as community partnerships have yielded stronger ties into the workforce for our students. The virtual lab afforded to the college by the grant has enabled hundreds of students to train on industry recognized software or engage in virtual situations of events they may have to face in the working world. The grant has also enabled faculty to develop new programs, offering further tutoring services to students, provided a direct connection to career coaching and allowed the college a direct connection into industry through employer relation specialists. Yet, one of the biggest changes brought upon by the grant is one that was simple in its implementation – a culture of change. BHCC, because of this grant, is looking forward to a future of closer collaboration with our business and industry partners in the area.

WHAT'S NEW IN CIT

During the Spring 2015 semester, here at Bunker Hill Community College, the CIT department is going to be offering two new courses to Information Technology students; both will be taught by professors new to the school.

For the first time ever the department is offering students Intro to Big Data with R and R-Studio, CIT-531-W1. Not only will this course introduce new concepts to the students in attendance, it

will also act as an introduction for students interested in earning a new certificate involving Big Data that is still being developed at BHCC.

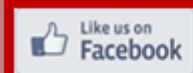
The second course being offered is Introduction to Mobile Applications, CIT-527. While introducing students to the ever changing information surrounding the creation of mobile applications for Android devices, it also offers a sample of another new 16-credit program certification.



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Career Group

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“IT” IN THE COMMUNITY | ST. MARY’S CENTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

One of the primary missions of the NISGTC grant is to educate and train more women in the field of Information Technology. In light of this and the fact that the St. Mary’s Center for Women and Children provides education and training for women, the center was a perfect match as a team member for the NISCTC grant program.

St. Mary’s Center for Women and Children has a long history of helping families in poverty and homelessness. The center serves over five hundred women annually,

providing these women with shelter, and emotional stability. In addition the women are given the opportunity to develop their educational skills through the Women’s Learning Center.

Bunker Hill Community College has joined forces with St. Mary’s Women’s Learning Center to provide women the opportunity to begin the process of working toward a certificate in the field of Information Technology. The women take courses taught by Bunker Hill faculty at St. Mary’s, after which they are able to

transition to Bunker Hill. The partnership between St. Mary’s and Bunker Hill not only equips women for the Information Technology workforce, but it also paves the path for women who are unemployed and underemployed because of lack of a technology education, to be able to begin to build their technology career. With more technologically educated women in the workforce employers will be better able to keep pace with the hiring needs of future technological advancement.

RECENT EVENTS | TECH TUESDAY

This past semester the Computer Information Technology Department continued its Tech Tuesday series, which covered a lot of ground in the field of technology. The first of the series featured a presentation by Bunker Hill’s own Michael Puopolo and Professor Bob Cronin, focusing on the technology certifications offered here at the college. The next was a presentation by Kim Yohannan of EMC. It focused on EMC’s Academic Alliance and introduced attendees to the future

of Big Data analytics. On the hardware side of IT, Professor Michael Harris took apart a computer tower, a smart phone, and a laptop;



allowing to students to see the inner workings of the technology that

they use every day. Adjunct Professor Justin Grosfelt’s presentation introduced students to the importance of Malware Analysis, and offered them a glimpse into what it means to be a freelance Information Security Consultant. The Tech Tuesday series closed with a presentation of Microsoft’s Gavin Bauman, who discussed not only his journey to becoming a Technical Evangelist, but also spoke about the importance of marketing oneself to potential employers.

OPPORTUNITIES IN “IT”

BHCC currently has a number of outlets for both current and graduating CIT majors looking for jobs or internship opportunities in the technology field.

One of the main ways the grant team has chosen to market these opportunities to CIT students is through our page on LinkedIn. It’s a space boasting 276 professional connections and is continually looking to connect with students working or networking in I.T. as well as students looking to upgrade their skills. The private BHCC IT Career Group run by Malakia Silcott, with contributions from Ann Diclemente, is a chance specifically for grant participants to view job opportunities open in the Boston area.

Another job search tool recently introduced at BHCC is CareerConnect. It’s an exclusive online career portal where both students and alumni can further their job search. Once a profile is set up, a search of targeted industry jobs and internships can be conducted, allowing job seekers to narrow their scope in the market.

For those looking for access to the BHCC IT Career Group on LinkedIn please contact Malakia Silcott at msilcott@bhcc.mass.edu. For more information on CareerConnect and instructions on profile set-up please contact Ann Diclemente at aediclemen@bhcc.mass.edu to schedule an appointment.

FOCUS ON FACULTY

ELIZABETH MILLER

Professor Elizabeth Miller is the instructor for the Introduction to Mobile Applications, which will run for the second time in the Spring semester 2015. The course focuses on introducing students, who aren't necessarily familiar with code writing, to the virtual lab environment. Professor Miller has developed a curriculum that will have students working independently in BHCC's Virtual Lab. The class will learn to use a development environment, and gain the valuable skills provided in the Virtual Lab. Through the course of the semester students will work on the labs created by Professor Miller specifically for the course.

MICHAEL HARRIS

Professor Michael Harris is the designer and professor for CIT-531, Introduction to Big Data with R and R-Studio that will run for the first time at Bunker Hill in the Spring of 2015. As an introduction course it is not lab intensive, but it will serve as a stepping stone to R in the Virtual Lab environment for students looking to expand their hands on skillset. Not only has Professor Harris been busy developing new curriculum, he also took on the task of managing the student tutoring service that has been provided by NISGTC. The tutors during the Fall semester assisted students individually but also acted as one-on-one help during some CIT class time.



TECH TALK

with KARL KISER

Since its inception the Virtual Lab provided by the NISGTC grant for the CIT department at Bunker Hill Community College has undergone a significant amount of growth. At the onset of the virtual environment its main use was as a lab environment for the Cisco courses offered at BHCC. It now supports all of the Cisco courses as well as Network Security, Ethical Hacking, Information Assurance and Mobile Applications. It has grown under the administrative support of Karl Kiser, whose job at the college focuses on managing the virtual

environment, created to foster real world skills and student growth. The environment is accessible for students to remotely access course material and software from any computer.

The entire lab environment is maintained in one room at BHCC and currently consists of two server racks. The first server rack supports the entire Virtual Lab environment that allows CIT students to access valuable practice learning space remotely. The second rack supports the Virtual Desktop Infrastructure, or VDI; which is what delivers virtual desktops to the live

environment in D102. The virtual lab itself supplements the need for all students to have extensive hands on experience. With this one provision of the DOL grant the CIT Department has been able to cater to more students than it would have been able to in the past.

In the final year of the grant, Karl Kiser will continue to work with the equipment. Not only ensuring that it continues to run smoothly for the students who need it, but also continuing to expand the lab's capacity to support new courses at Bunker Hill.

HIPCRICKET

NISGTC, along with the CIT Department, is currently utilizing a texting service to keep students up to date and informed about what is going on with Information Technology at Bunker Hill Community College.

Once a student enrolls in the texting service they are privy to reminders about important dates on

campus, ensuring that they are aware of registration or graduation deadlines. To opt-in to Hipcricket's messaging service here on campus and stay connected to the CIT Department, students have to text BHCC to 87544. If the student would rather receive the updates via email they can get more information by visiting, www.nisgtc.org/text.html.

PREPARING FOR MOCK INTERVIEW DAY

BY MALAKIA SILCOTT

In the spring, the Computer Information Technology Department hosted a Mock Interview Day to benefit declared CIT majors at Bunker Hill. For those unfamiliar with the concept, a "mock," or practice, interview is designed to help job seekers work on their interview strategies and may also help improve an individual's confidence level in what can be a stressful interview environment. According to Monster.com, when a candidate takes the time to engage in practice interview they can learn where their strengths lie and where they may need work, arguing that in today's competitive job market candidates must be prepared.

Mock interviews are usually

given in different increments of time depending on the person/department that is providing the mock interview. Usually, they can last anywhere from 30 minutes to one hour. The interview normally consists of time for candidates to answer practice interview questions, time to ask follow-up questions of the interviewer, as well as time for a brief evaluation of the participants' performance.

Mock Interview Day, an event sponsored by the BHCC Career Services Department and the Computer Information Technology Department, will be held in the Spring 2015 and will be open to qualified CIT majors. The "interviews" for the event will be

provided by both IT professionals and CIT alumni from BHCC. In this respect, it will be an opportunity for students to refine their interview skills as well as an opportunity to network with professionals in the IT industry. Students who participate should remember that these are practice interviews and not interviews for real jobs, however to get the most out of the opportunity student's should treat the "interviews" as if they were for actual positions, keeping in mind that potential contacts could be screening for employment opportunities that may arise in the future.

Stay connected with the CIT Department for sign-up instructions in late February.

NISGTC STAFF

☞ **Moira Choing** Market Labor Researcher

☞ **Ann DiClemente** Job Developer

☞ **Joyce Henderson** Assistant Project Director

☞ **Karl Kiser** Virtual Lab Manager

☞ **Wendolyn Lara** Admin Assistant

☞ **Gaby Leon-Guerrero** Marketing and Communications Assistant

☞ **Mike Puopolo** CBO Liaison

☞ **Malakia Silcott** Career Coach

☞ **Beverley Steitz** Career Coach

☞ **Giang Trang** Grants Assistant

☞ **Paula Velluto** Consultant

☞ **Kevin Wells** Data Analyst

☞ **Bogusia Wojciechowska** Dean of Prof. Studies

☞ **Dawn Zapata** Project Director

