

Kent State University Students Earn Enterprise Architect Certification as part of Coursework in the School of Digital Sciences

Through a unique arrangement between Kent State University and the Enterprise Architecture Center Of Excellence (EACOE), undergraduate students at Kent State University can now earn Certification as Enterprise Architects. The first group of students earned the Enterprise Architect Certification in December 2012.

Samuel B. Holcman, chairman of the Pinnacle Business Group Inc. and managing director of the Enterprise Architecture Center Of Excellence, calls this arrangement with the university exciting because of the school's multidisciplinary approach to the topic.

"These students gained a set of transferable skills that will make them extremely valuable to organizations around the world," Holcman said. "But while Enterprise Architecture is of interest to people around the world, work in the field from an academic standpoint is very thin. We believe academic institutions like Kent State University can bring discipline to this, with the university becoming the foremost authority in the world. We think that this program, where students can actually earn their Enterprise Architect Certification, should become a model for other educational institutions to follow."

"In the last 20 years, people have started to pay attention to addressing Enterprise Architecture because of one word, and that word is complexity," Holcman said. "The business and technological needs of modern organizations are extremely complex. The analogy I like to give is, if you're building a rowboat, you don't need much architecture. If you're building a cruise ship, you better do a lot of planning and architecture before you get out the hammer and nails!"

Kent State University's Adjunct Professor Dana Baer taught the course. She is also an EACOE Certified Enterprise Architect Fellow and is employed by Pinnacle Business Group, Inc. Professor Baer states that because of Kent State, undergraduates were able to not only study Enterprise Architecture theory, but also how to actually conduct an Enterprise Architecture project, and practice the Enterprise Architecture techniques and procedures performed in organizations around the world.

One of the students who is now an EACOE Certified Enterprise Architect is Clinton

Wright, a Junior majoring in Digital Sciences with a concentration in Enterprise Architecture. He states "I enjoyed the course and thought that it helped me to understand more of what Enterprise Architecture is. The group case study was very beneficial to learning the material because it was a hands-on activity and by meeting with the group and working through the case study week by week, myself, and other members in my group, agreed that we understood the material better after applying it to our own work."

Digital Sciences student Douglas Flower adds "Enterprise Architecture really brought to light the importance of analyzing the needs and goals of a business model at a deeper level in order to improve prioritization. The process of harvesting key elements such as the active roles and materials of a business serves to better distinguish the people and things that are the most critical to any task. From a managerial perspective, Enterprise Architecture should be an essential tool for any business looking to drive down unnecessary costs and narrow the focus of their vision."

"It is very exciting for us to have our first set of students gain their Enterprise Architect Certification," said Dr. Robert A. Walker, Director of Kent State University's School of Digital Sciences. "Our undergraduate program provides a unique blend of technical and design skills, and this cutting-edge course on Enterprise Architecture makes our undergraduate students even more valuable in the workplace."

In closing, Dr. Walker added, "Don't forget about our graduate certificate and Master's degree. These online programs are the perfect opportunity for working professionals to gain academic credentials in Enterprise Architecture, and our graduate Enterprise Architecture course is also grounded in the EACOE methodology." See <http://www.kent.edu/dsci/enterprisearchitecture/index.cfm> for further details.

See <http://www.EACOE.org> for more information on the Enterprise Architecture Center Of Excellence (EACOE).

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