

Practicum Informational Session

Presented by: Dr. Lorraine
Powers



Mission: To empower students with a two-year business degree by showcasing their skills, connecting them to real-world opportunities, provide networking guidance, and helping them explore diverse career pathways

Vision: To connect employers with students guiding them toward career sustaining opportunities.

Project Mission and Vision

Project Purpose

- ▶ **Problem:** Students in the business program do not clearly see how their studies lead to employment and don't have enough opportunities to connect with industry.
- ▶ **Opportunity:** Students would benefit from an event that connects employers to students.

Proposed Idea

To create a student practicum experience in their capstone course.

- Provide them with experience and exposure
- Demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities to stakeholders in the business community and beyond
- Get advice and feedback from local workforce professionals.

Aligns with Goal 6: Labor Market Alignment: This project supports WTCC's goal of ensuring students find sustainable employment post-graduation by allowing them to demonstrate their capabilities directly to potential employers.

Capstone Project Overview

- A pilot program will launch in the spring (2025) to connect student consultant teams with employer business mentors.
- Student consultant teams will work with their mentors to solve, research, or explore a real problem.
- Student consultant team leads and mentors will meet regularly (twice a month) to ensure progress on the project.
- Each project will result in a specific final product, which will be presented at the semester-end showcase.

Role of Student Consultant

Student Engagement:

- Regularly communicate progress and challenges to mentors.
- Incorporate mentor feedback.
- Regular check-ins with their assigned mentor.

Student Responsibilities:

- Complete a detailed project presentation and showcase an artifact
- Present findings professionally.
- Participate in a Q&A session

Role of Business Mentors/Client S

Student Guidance: Mentors will be responsible for guiding groups of 6-7 student consultant teams throughout the semester, helping them refine their projects and presentations.

Active Participation: Mentors are expected to be actively involved both throughout the semester and on the day of the event, engaging with students, evaluating their work, and providing valuable feedback.

Project Feedback: Mentors will offer industry-specific feedback to ensure that student projects are relevant and impactful in a real-world business context.

Showcase: Mentors will attend the final showcase capstone event with their team.

Value to the Business:

- Opportunity to use student teams to solve a problem, improve a process, or design a new brand or marketing proposal.
- Take a moment and think out student consultants can work for you.
- Oh, and they are FREE!
- Today, I am asking you to volunteer to become a business mentor for our Pilot Business Administration Practicum.

What Value is there to the you
Mentor/Client

Final Presentation Showcase Spring of 2025



Event Structure: The event will be structured to allow student consultant teams to showcase and present their project plus network with employers.

Location: Wake Tech Campus (exact location TBD)

Audience Business community members, potential employers, faculty, students, and family

Length of time: Capstone event 5 – 7 pm (tentative April 23)



Are you interested?

Question and Answers

Please keep in mind this a pilot and the first time we are doing this.

The students in this class are called Trailblazers!



▶ THANK YOU

Dr. Lorraine Powers

Contact: ldpowers1@waketech.edu

Cell: 919-306-0310