Fall is in full swing here in Blacksburg. The leaves are changing, the wind is blowing, and the temperatures are finally dropping. I know that many of our co-op/intern students are working onsite in a new city, while some students are still working in remote opportunities here in Blacksburg or even at home. Either way we know that you are all learning and growing throughout your experience and we are appreciative of the opportunities our industry partners offer to our students.

In this newsletter you will find information about our program, an introduction of our CEIP Fellows and Coaches, and spotlight interviews with students and employers who participate in our program. As a reminder, the final student assignment is due Dec. 5 where you will be reflecting on your experience this semester. This is great assignment to discuss with your supervisor as you reflect on what you have learned during your time with them.

I know the many changes and challenges we have faced over the past two years can seem overwhelming at times. It is important that you practice self-care and find activities that can help reduce your stress. You are all doing a great job!
Are you planning to enroll in CEIP for another term in the future?

NEW CEIP Course Enrollment Deadlines: February 10th, July 1st, and September 10th (Make sure to enroll in CEIP by these dates!)

After enrolling, make sure to attend a MANDATORY orientation session (dates for Spring semester TBA soon)

CEIP Information Sessions
Thursday, October 28, 3:30pm (in Smith Career Center)
Wednesday, November 10, 1:15pm (virtual)
Thursday, November 16, 11:15am (in Smith Career Center)

Must register on Handshake to attend.
Pass this along to students interested in a co-op or internship experience!

Important Fall 2021 Academic Dates:
November 20 – 28 - Thanksgiving Break
December 8 – Classes End
December 9 – Reading Day
December 10 – Fall Semester Exams Begin
December 17 – University Commencement

Meet the 2021-2022 CEIP Fellows!
Our CEIP fellows are students who have co-oped once or multiple times. They are hired each academic year and use their experience in CEIP to improve the program for future students.

Madeline Ericksen
Senior, Mechanical Engineering

Mackenzie Roach
Senior, Chemical Engineering

Rafael Garcia-Rodriguez
Junior, Aerospace Engineering

If interested in applying to be a CEIP fellow next semester, please email Becca Scott at bhscott@vt.edu
As students in the First Rotation section (4084 + 3084), you will complete the following assignments:

- Professional Competency Assessment + Learning Objective
- Partnership Understanding
- Discover Your Strengths
- Mid-Semester Reflection
- Update Your Resume
- Professional Competency Reflection Assignment
- (Extra Credit assignments available)

As students in the Multiple Rotation section (4084 + 3084), you will complete the following:

- Professional Competency Assessment and Learning Objectives
- Partnership Understanding
- Strengths Assignment
- Mid-Semester Reflection
- Professional Development Assignment
- Final Reflection Assignment
- (Extra Credit assignments available)

Introducing Your CEIP Coaches!

Your coaches are so excited to work with you during your co-op or internship experience this semester. Their goal is to help you make the most of your experience and support you along the way. We will match you up with a CEIP Coach. CEIP coaches and their emails are below:

Amy McPherson- amcphers@vt.edu
Angie Engle- aengel@vt.edu
Ariana DiFillippo- arianard@vt.edu
Becca Scott- bhscott@vt.edu
Catherine Copeland- copeland@vt.edu
Jenean Meadows- ljmeadows@vt.edu
Julia Ward- jebhokie@vt.edu
Kayla Branson- knic94@vt.edu
Leigh Anne Leist- leistla@vt.edu
Lisa Boothe- lboothe@vt.edu

Assignment Deadlines

First set of assignments were due Sunday, September 26th

Second set of assignments are due Sunday, October 17th

Third set of assignments and extra credit are due Sunday, December 5th

CEIP Coaches will review your coursework and provide feedback on your learning, reflection, and professional growth. You are welcome to reach out to your coach through email if you want to follow-up on any feedback or comments they made in your assignment notes.
**CEIP Student Spotlight**

**Name:** Mikun Adewole  
**Year:** Junior  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering  
**Hometown:** Lagos, Nigeria  

**Co-ops completed:** 3  
**Current Co-op experience:** Salesforce  
**Location:** Remote

1) **What are some highlights from your experience?**  
I just finished my first project, which was to help optimize processes at my company. I made a database to store improved processes, so that anyone at the company can access them. This project allowed me to learn more about the company and has also allowed me to develop and improve Tableau software skills. So far, I have really enjoyed that they throw you straight into work and they have been working hard to bring me up to speed. Other skills I would say I have developed so far include professionalism and meeting etiquette, better communications skills, and also time management.

2) **What are the benefits of being enrolled in the CEIP course while you work? What was the most beneficial assignment?**  
Being in the course has allowed me to track each step of my co-op and track my accomplishments. It has also allowed me to be more intentional about what I want to achieve, through developing learning objectives before starting work. It also showed me my value as co-op student, in that just because we are students and only doing a co-op or internship, we still are capable and deserve respect. The most beneficial assignment is the Partnership Understanding. This really forces students to bring their supervisors into the conversation about what we expect from the internship. It also tells them what they should expect from us, and allows us to understand how to treat each other throughout the term.

3) **How do you think your work experiences will help you in your future career? What skills have you developed that you will use in your future career?**  
With co-ops and internships, there is this “try before you buy” mentality, which I really enjoy. I do not want to jump into a career that I do not like, so co-oping gives you the ability to explore different careers. My work experiences also allowed me to navigate various work environments to work on my soft skills, and taught me how to navigate working with different people. I have really been able to figure out my interests and also what I do not like or want in a future career. Some skills that I will use in the future include business intelligence and data analytic tools and knowing how to use resources. Also, I realized that building your network is really important, so are the connections you make at different companies. Being able to make friends and enjoy work a bit more is important because it makes you want to go into work and you also never know who can help out in the future.

**HOKIES ANSWER: What is your favorite VT tradition?**  
Although it was a really unfortunate situation, I like that Virginia Tech continues to honor the lives lost by hosting the 3.2 for 32 Run for Remembrance. It helps keep people fit, meet new people, and perpetuate Hokie culture remembering the Hokies that are no longer with us.

Interested in sharing about your experience in CEIP? email Becca Scott at bhscott@vt.edu
1) Why do you like hiring VT students? What common majors do you see?
Peraton loves hiring Virginia Tech students because they consistently meet and exceed our expectations. The quality of students and graduates we get are excellent and are the type of early-career professionals we want to be hiring. Virginia Tech does a really good job of preparing them for the workforce, especially because of these opportunities like co-ops and internships. We take around 10 co-op students a semester and a majority of them major in either computer science, computer engineering, or computational modeling and data analytics. However, we also have had students that are cyber security or electrical engineering, as well. Peraton has almost 22,000 employees, so there is room for students studying different majors at our company.

2) What does a co-op experience with your company look like? What benefits are there to working as a student for your company?
Peraton gives experiential learning to VT students while they are currently enrolled in school. Students can enroll in our co-op program for a full semester or a full semester plus the summer. We also have shorter opportunities that take place solely in the summer. We treat our co-op students like entry-level software engineers. The main benefit is that they can work with professionals in the field, with technology that is relevant to their career. Students working for us will work on projects for customers along with full-time staff, which gives them a sense of what it is like in the workforce working with different software and data analytic tools.

3) What skills do you help students develop?
Students are able to learn full-scale development with a large codebase. We help students build off their knowledge from courses, transitioning them from working on class projects to working on a large team, long-term. Whether they continue working for us or if they go on to working in a different company, our co-op students are able to learn how to pick up and apply new technology. Students need to be able to quickly adapt to new technology, especially in this field. Additionally, students develop and enhance professionalism, learn workplace dynamics, and establish good time management and communication skills which are transferable to any work setting.

4) What advice would you give a young professional who is just getting started in their career?
I suggest to any young professional in any field, just starting out, to take advantage of opportunities presented to you. Whether that means getting different certifications or attending different trainings, taking any opportunity to learn new things and invest time in ways that can increase your skills will make you a better professional in the long-run. Also, make sure your tasks are managed well and that you take accountability and pride in your work. For Peraton specifically, I know we hire a large number of college graduates every year. So I strongly suggest to students before they graduate to attend career fairs and stay proactive in your full-time job search.

Interested in sharing about your experience in CEIP? email Becca Scott at bhscott@vt.edu
Fall 2021 Student Skillshop Series

The Art of Professionalism
Wednesday, November 3rd  5:30-6:30pm

Marketing Your Experience
Wednesday, December 1st  5:30-6:30pm

For more information and to register for these events, please visit Handshake and search "Skillshop Series". All sessions will be held virtually on Zoom. If you need accommodations, please contact Becca Scott (bhscott@vt.edu).

Spring Career Fairs

Business Horizons- January 27, 2022 (virtual)
and February 2, 2022 (in-person)
Connection Fair- February 16, 2022 (format TBD)
CAMEO- February 22, 2022 (virtual)
and February 24-25, 2022 in-person)

For details or questions about specific fairs, please visit the following site:
https://career.vt.edu/events/Career-fairs.html

REMINDER:
If there are any changes to your status (such as if you are laid-off or if you decide to resign) please let our office know immediately!

HOKIE Mentorship Connect

Visit the following website to get connected with alumni or share this resource with others:
https://career.vt.edu/hokie-mentorship-connect.html

Contact Us!

- CEIP@vt.edu
- @vtcareerprofdev
- 540.231.6241
- www.career.vt.edu

Or come see us in the Smith Career Center!
870 Washington St., Blacksburg, VA