



## **The TCNJ School of Engineering Alumni Mentoring Program**

The TCNJ School of Engineering Alumni Mentoring Program aims to connect TCNJ/TSC School of Engineering Alumni to current students for mutual benefits.

### **Participating alumni will gain:**

- Access to potential employees or interns
- Networking opportunities with other alumni to help them in their career or business
- Potential to interact with TCNJ professors and students as a resource for carrying out projects
- Satisfaction of helping the next generation gain career insights

### **Participating students will gain:**

- Career mentoring from professionals who have a common bond with them
- Networking opportunities with alumni to help them with their career planning and advice for navigating TCNJ
- Access to potential employers

The mentoring program works by creating specific events and a few “controlled” interactions between alumni and students. Beyond these interactions, students and alumni can interact as mutually agreeable. The program will have a series of events and deliverables each year. Attendance at the on-campus events is **not** required for mentors.

### **On Campus Events for 2010- 2011 academic year:**

**October 20, 2010 5:30 – 8:30 (tent.)** - Kickoff social and career panel discussions; an opportunity to meet face-to-face.

**February 2011** – Panel discussion (topic TBD)

**April 2011**- Panel discussion (topic TBD)

Potential panel discussion topics include: graduate school opportunities, working in ‘sector xyz,’ research opportunities in industry, working in academia, navigating TCNJ senior projects, preparing for the FE Exam, employment etiquette, tours of facilities, and other special topics.

**Structured Interactions:**

In order to foster initial communication between mentors and students, two simple deliverables will be required of each student. First, the students will be required to interview their mentor about their career path. Please note that the mentor's career path need not be long, students can learn from new graduates as well as more seasoned individuals. Secondly, the students will be required to have the mentor review their resume (juniors are targeting internships and seniors are targeting full-time employment). With a maximum of three students per mentor, this should not be a large time commitment for the mentor, but will provide valuable advice to the student.

**Additional Interactions:**

With any mentoring relationship, it is impossible to predict exactly how much interaction will be sought. The program has been designed to give meaningful interaction without undue burden for either mentor or student. However, additional interaction is possible if the mentor and student are both amenable. Mentors provide a preferred contact method for all interactions, usually email, but also telephone if appropriate.

**Alumni Matching**

Alumni will be solicited for participation in the program via a letter from the Dean during the summer 2010. The goal is to have one or two junior students assigned to each mentor based on the following criteria:

1. Major
2. Level of education
3. Company/ sector
4. Location/ Ability to come to campus
5. Interests/ Hobbies

Alumni will be asked their preferred contact method (e.g. email, phone, etc.) – initially, we are not providing a networking website, but this is possible if warranted.

**Initial Logistics**

The mentoring will begin in the junior year because this is a year in which many career decisions become more in focus for the student. Moreover, the students have gained enough background to seek specific answers to questions about their chosen field. The students will continue with their mentor through their senior year. Students enrolled in ENG 093 and ENG 094 will be required to participate in the mentor program.