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To whom it may concern

Monash Industry Experience Project - Business Higher Education Round Table Awards

I am writing this as one of the inaugural mentors of the Monash Industry Experience Project. I recently retired from the role of Chairman of the Clovis Capital Company, a boutique advisory business (now part of PPB Advisory) and am now active in the voluntary sector. For two years I led the Global Financial Services consulting practice for EDS (now HP), the Technology Services Company. Prior to EDS, for six years I was Chief Information Officer and Head of Global Technology and Operations for DBS, a Pan-Asian Banking Group headquartered in Singapore. Before joining the Bank, for fifteen years I was a Partner in the consulting practice of Ernst & Young.

This Industry Experience programme captured my attention as a creative collaboration between industry and academia and is an outstanding example of combining student talent and industry experience and insight. In my long international career in business and technology, I hired a significant number of technology graduates. I am convinced that had they had the exposure to this programme they would have been more "work-ready": able to contribute more rapidly and effectively.

I believe the benefits for industry to be significant, as it enables companies to:

- Give back to the community;
- Assist in creating projects of use for the community;
- Provide their employees with practice in mentoring and facilitating skills;
- Provide feedback so that the programme will be of greater benefit in providing future technical developers;
- Introduce the students to current and innovative products and processes being employed by leading companies, so that students become more "work-ready"; and
- Produce graduates that are thinking outside the box.

Benefits to the students are of even greater significance, as they:

- Gain experience in communicating with senior industry people;
- Research and analyse to identify a problem and an audience for that problem, then think innovatively to find a solution;
- Work in non-self-selected, multi-cultural teams, under the sort of pressure they will experience in industry;

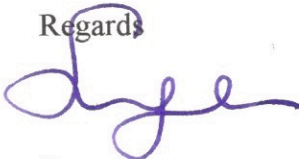
- Experience many situations that they will be confronted with when they start their career;
- Develop something authentic, that will be of practical use in a real development environment; and
- Present to, and have their work reviewed and critiqued by, a range of stakeholders with differing perspectives and opinions; and, as mentioned above,
- Contribute more effectively and rapidly in their chosen career.

An integral part of the program is the continuous feedback loop between mentors and academic staff that ensures that the programme not only continues to improve but remains relevant to changing industry needs and approaches.

I found the mentoring experience to have been very rewarding: watching students grow and learn, seeing their confidence increase and their pride in achieving a real and societally useful outcome after a period of intense effort especially gratifying.

I wholeheartedly commend this programme, and the staff and mentors whose contributions and efforts make it such a success.

Regards



Steve Ingram