

# NIU Alumni Association The Next Level

March 24, 2022

© 2017 Northern Illinois University



**Northern Illinois University**  
*Your Future. Our Focus.*



# NIU Alumni Association

*The NIU Alumni Association is the glue between our new graduates just starting out in their careers and the more experienced alumni, established in their careers and prepared to give of their time and treasure...*

*We look for ways to continually provide the kind of support found at larger institutions.*



# NIU Alumni Association



After updating our Strategic Plan in 2020, we determined two opportunities to support our students' future success:

- Alumni Leadership Circles (pilot sponsored by the College of Business)
- Points of Pride (pilot sponsored by the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology)



# Alumni Leadership Circles

- Pilot sponsored by College of Business (COB)
- College of Business is 8 months into the Leadership Circles pilot.
- Performance is great and moving forward.
- COB determined a special opportunity to add more value to their degree programs.
- Launched a new program called “**Unity Circles**” in July 2021
- 57 alumni signed up to form 8 circles
- Self Managed team focused



## Next Steps (Leadership Circles)



- Program will be reviewed at the end of June 2022
- A second survey to be sent out to capture quantitative and qualitative results
- Determine next steps to include
  - Bringing members into greater involvement with NIUAA
  - Moving those interested into a more permanent network within NIUAA

## Points of Pride

- Pilot sponsored by College of Engineering and Engineering Technology (CEET).
- Our premise is: You have 30 minutes in front of an audience of parents and potential students – what do you say to convince them to come to NIU?
- Contains everything from “we care about our students,” to the number of hiring companies in this career field.
- What we need to be better at is describing clear career outcomes.
- Points of Pride for the College and each Department. Example shown is for the College.



# Points of Pride: CEET Overall

- Students apply knowledge; CEET students get ample opportunity to apply what they learn resulting in graduates that are prepared for the workplace and confident in their abilities.
- Getting Hands Dirty; Over 35 labs and only 6 classrooms because most of the learning is done in labs.
- Real World Experience; Classes and Labs reflect the multi-disciplinary reality and equipment of industry, so students are able to bring value from day one.
- Access to Labs; from the first week on campus, new students are able to join research teams, competition teams and attain access to labs.
- Access to Faculty; 94% of our faculty have PhDs in their fields, are accessible to students outside class and teach the courses themselves and. Classes are not taught by Teaching Assistants, as is the case at many flagship universities.\
- Access to northern Illinois' Technology and Research Corridor and Golden Corridors; home to 6000 manufacturing companies, 300 distributors, 150 hospitals within an hour drive to DeKalb. Provides hands-on experience, plus job and internship opportunities for our students.
- Evolving and expanding. The college is growing and expanding with the addition of mechatronics and biomedical engineering programs as well as doctoral programs now offered in mechanical, electrical and industrial and systems engineering. New programs are planned for the future.
- Large multidisciplinary senior design program featuring 70+ teams annually that promotes the integration of engineering students from Biomedical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronics Engineering on design teams that work to solve real-world challenges for industry.



**NIU students have the advantage of being located near hundreds of global companies for access to internships and employment.**





## Next Steps (Points of Pride)

- NIU has a need to collect alumni career outcomes data in a way that more fully represents the value of an NIU education to multiple audiences.
- We plan on partnering with a labor market data company specializing in data research and collection.
- A campus leadership steering committee has been formed to address specific issues of security, integrity, and efficacy of data and its use.
- We will demo products for the Steering Committee in the near future.







# Questions?

9 The Alumni Association engages alumni, creates connections, promotes the value of an NIU degree...

