

# Career Services seeks peer career coaches from student body

Adam Denchfield

PEER CAREER COACH, CAREER SERVICES

Last spring, the Career Services office at Illinois Tech created a new "Peer Career Coaching" (PCC) program. Our purpose is to provide needed career advice to the greater student body by utilizing their own peers, since peer-to-peer communication is often very effective. The career advice includes resume building, cover letter writing, networking, LinkedIn tips, and advice on the job search process. PCCs work shifts throughout the week, and include evenings and weekends (to better accommodate students who can't come in during regular office hours). Additionally, our peer coaches can work across campus, in the library, in residence halls, and at the MTCC student center, which increases the reach of our Career Services office in Hermann Hall.

This program has proved effective. Our PCCs have reached hundreds of students in the past 10 months, a number that is steadily increasing as the program becomes more well-



Photos courtesy of Career Services

known on campus. However, in addition to directly helping our students, we find that our PCCs can inspire students to share their newfound career development knowledge

with other peers. The hope is that this model of exponential growth will continue, and our ultimate goal is that the majority of our Illinois Tech students are helping to provide effective

support for each other in a sustainable fashion.

Peer career coaches are selected based on their involvement on-campus and their experience related to professional development. All PCCs have held internships or participated in research as undergraduates. Their experience and knowledge of the campus environment fuel their conversations and engagement with first-year and second-year students.

Students who need help writing a résumé, creating a LinkedIn profile, or beginning an internship search are encouraged to meet with a peer career coach. PCCs on a similar career path can offer highly relevant feedback and help students take the next step. To learn more about the peer career coaches, and to view their availability, visit their website at <http://web.iit.edu/career-services/career-coaches/peer-coaches>. You can also "like" their page on Facebook (@illinoistech.peercareercoach) to see what they're involved in.

## Knapp Entrepreneurship Center encourages students to enter CLEANTECH University Prize competition

Margaret Murphy, Donna Rockin

KNAPP ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER

The U.S. Department of Energy, in conjunction with their regional partner, the Clean Energy Trust, a Chicago-based non-profit organization working with innovators to bring their ideas to life, is currently hosting a competition for the best green, clean energy solution. Whether you're writing an innovative business plan for your Master of Business Administration, working on promising research in the lab, or daydreaming of becoming the next Elon Musk by inventing a great new energy technology this competition may be for you. In order to participate, think of a green, clean energy solution that hasn't been

thought of before and enter the Clean Energy Trust's CLEANTECH University Prize (UP) competition. The winner will receive \$50,000 to help bring their innovation to life. But, the clock is ticking, you must enter by December 1, 2016 to qualify.

The Clean Energy Trust intends to maximize each Illinois Tech student applicant's access to quality mentorship, business development, and exposure. There is also the possible opportunity for top finalists to present their technologies for further funding at the 2017 CLEANTECH UP National Competition.

The application for the CLEANTECH University Prize (<http://cleanenergytrust.org/programs/cleantech-up/>) is free and only requires creating a login

through their YouNoodle application platform. There is no minimum or maximum team size, however teams must consist of at least half actively enrolled undergraduate, graduate, or PhD students. Relevant team or company sectors include, but are not limited to: advanced transportation, bioenergy, efficiency technologies, energy storage, internet of things/smart cities, microgrids/smart grids, renewable energy, and water-energy nexus. Team or company product stages include, but are not limited to, idea/concept, prototype, pilot, and commercialization. In 2016, over \$1 million in prizes and seed-stage funding was awarded at the 8 regional competitions to support emerging CLEANTECH innovators and entrepreneurs. The mission of the

CLEANTECH UP competition is to empower the next generation of clean energy innovators and entrepreneurs. By investing in and supporting students today, we are ensuring a cleaner, more sustainable tomorrow.

With the December 1st deadline fast approaching, the Knapp Entrepreneurship Center, IIT Wanger Institute for Sustainable Energy Research, the Clean Energy Trust, and the US Department of Energy all want Illinois Tech students to enter and win this year's competition. If you need assistance or have questions about the CLEANTECH UP competition, please contact Margaret Murphy at [murphym@iit.edu](mailto:murphym@iit.edu) or Donna Rockin at [drockin@iit.edu](mailto:drockin@iit.edu).

## Students Speak Survey extended for a week, seeking more student input

The Center for Research and Service

Your fellow Illinois Tech students are once again looking for your input in discovering how we can improve the quality of student's experiences with various service areas and departments here at Illinois Tech. The Students Speak program aligns with the President's and Provost's commitment to advancing student satisfaction and the quality of services provided to students. The Students Speak survey has been extended another week and will close on Monday November 14.

Having identified areas within the university services that are important to students and have not been surveyed in at least two years, the survey has been developed to focus on each of those key areas and the committee asks that students provide feedback so that they can gauge what the university is doing right, what needs improvement, etc. The committee will present the results from the Students Speak survey to the President and

Provost in January and will also give feedback to the departments and service areas included on the survey. Student committee members also submit specific recommendations on how administrators can make the necessary changes needed to increase student satisfaction with their offices' services. These recommendations will stem from the survey findings collected and from additional input from members of various student organizations.

The Students Speak committee is supported by Dr. George Langlois, the Executive Director for the Center of Research and Service (part of the Lewis College of Human Sciences) and the Illinois Tech Leadership Academy. For those that do not know him, Dr. Langlois is an Industrial / Organizational psychologist whose office also conducts the annual faculty survey and provides consultation to numerous high profile clients outside of Illinois Tech. His knowledge and expertise in survey design and analysis serves as a valuable asset to the committee. The Students Speak project is especially important to Dr. Langlois, as he

received his PhD here at Illinois Tech and the project allows him and his office to give back to the university by helping to make students' experiences here the best that it can be.

The committee has the manpower, the determination, and the contacts, but they need one more crucial piece in order for this survey to make a difference - YOU! They need as many students as possible to provide feedback on the various student services in order for to really gauge what has been working well for students and what needs improvement. Traditionally, the number of student responses has been close to half the total student body and the goal this year is to get an even larger proportion of students to participate. A couple minutes of your time is all it takes to help drive positive change by ensuring that your voice is heard when the committee presents their findings to the President and Provost.

As an added incentive for participating in the survey, there will also be a raffle drawing that any participating students will be entered in, where they will have the

chance to win one of several assortment of prizes including: \$20 gift cards, Illinois Tech apparel, and Illinois Tech coffee mugs and thermos cups! This is your chance to influence positive change for all Illinois Tech students and to have your opinions heard by the university's leadership and senior administrators. Again, the Students Speak Survey is focused on you, the student and this is your chance to help make a positive, lasting impact for current and future Illinois Tech students!

The survey has been extended one more week, so please take this extra time to complete it. Survey reminders will continue to be sent to students who have not yet completed it, but in case you miss it, you can simply go to ([http://www.iit.edu/students\\_speak](http://www.iit.edu/students_speak)) and complete the survey there, or stop by the kiosk that will be set up on the bridge in MTCC during lunch hour. Take the survey and let your voice be heard - it only takes a few minutes of your time to make a difference at Illinois Tech!

## Illinois Tech celebrates successful close of Fueling Innovation Campaign

Six years, more than \$250 million raised and the countless lives impacted.

On August 31, 2016 Illinois Tech officially closed Fueling Innovation: The Campaign for

IIT. The university exceeded the \$250 million goal by raising \$250,242,380 from more than

15,000 donor, and they celebrated on campus on October 27-28, 2016.



Photos courtesy of the Office of Institutional Advancement