

# Academic Initiative for Enterprise Systems

## IBM System z



There continues to be an increased demand on colleges and universities to provide relevant coursework and practical experiences that prepare students for jobs in today's complex and growing IT field. Today's engineers, computer scientists, administrators, and developers require a broader view of the business and enterprise systems that will support efforts to simplify, consolidate, and save resources for the future. Yet, there has been a continual disconnect in **what** is relevant and from **where** to acquire this talent.

The need for IT professionals is greater than ever:

- The number of students graduating with science and engineering degrees in the U.S. has been declining over the last 10 years
- The number of newly declared computer science majors has declined 32% over the last four years
- Women are leaving science and engineering programs at alarmingly high rates..
- Approximately 70 million Baby Boomers will exit the workforce during the next 15 years, with only 40 million workers coming in
- Between 2010 and 2020, the US, Europe, Japan, China and India will face a shortfall of 32 million technically specialized professionals

**We've all heard or experienced the effects of these statistics, but there are opportunities to better educate millions of students to produce a more competitive IT workforce ...**

A strong local relationship between schools and the mainframe community (mainframe clients, business partners, Independent Software Vendors [ISVs], user groups) can provide valuable insights into business demands and future education requirements. IBM has an effective and flexible program that is available to IBM clients and business partners to assist schools worldwide.

### The IBM Academic Initiative System z program

The IBM Academic Initiative System z™ program ([ibm.com/university/systemz](http://ibm.com/university/systemz)) partners with colleges and universities and provides educational resources to assist in building future enterprise systems student skills. The program provides many benefits and resources, at no charge, to educators who join and become members. A few of these benefits include:

- **Course materials:** A wide array of mainframe course materials is available to educators. These courses contain textbooks, presentation slides, exams, and labs, and range in length from full semester to individual modules (self-contained topics of information). Educators can use these materials "as is" or integrate specific information with existing curricula.
- **Faculty education:** System z classes, seminars and workshops are offered to educators year round.
- **Remote mainframe access:** A significant benefit for members is remote access to mainframes for education and research.

### How can IBM Clients and Business Partners participate?

The effort of skills building requires assistance and involvement from the entire ecosystem. As a member of this community, you play an important role in assisting educators and students to build future skills. Here are some ways you can get involved:

#### 1. Identify a school and a primary contact

Identify a school to approach about teaching enterprise systems—one located in your geographic area, one you are an alumnus of, or one you currently recruit from (or would like to recruit from in the future). All schools (high schools, community colleges, colleges and universities) qualify.

**Note:** To see the list of schools participating in the program, visit [ibm.com/university/systemz](http://ibm.com/university/systemz) and click on the "Participating schools" tab.

## 2. Contact the IBM Academic Initiative team

Send an e-mail to the IBM Academic Initiative System z team at [zskills@us.ibm.com](mailto:zskills@us.ibm.com). Our team will discuss alternatives with you for working with and assisting educators. Together, we can contact and work with schools to encourage and help educators to integrate enterprise system concepts and labs into their current curricula or help a school build a new enterprise systems curriculum.

## 3. Sponsor or attend an Academic/Industry roundtable event

The Academic Initiative works with mainframe clients to schedule roundtable events on campus. Roundtable events bring the mainframe community together, face-to-face, with academia to discuss the importance of and demand for students with enterprise systems skills and knowledge. At roundtable events, we:

- Provide an overview of the IBM Academic Initiative and describe how educators can leverage this program
- Validate the demand for students educated in enterprise systems (mainframe community)
- Facilitate an open dialogue and discuss potential next steps.

### Why participate in a roundtable?

#### *If you are an IBM Partner or ISV...*

As a member of the IBM System z community, you have cultivated extraordinarily close relationships with the local business community. With the roundtable, we are asking you to further this commitment to your local enterprise systems community by drawing on your deep experience and assisting in identifying the skill requirements for a curriculum that best meets the needs of the local business community.

Participating in this open forum not only will allow you to better deal with new and existing clients who are looking for local skills and talent, but also to provide additional solutions on your clients' current systems. Through collaboration with local educational institutions, your clients will be able to acquire graduates with skills in the latest technology.

#### *If you are a Client...*

As both the end user for the talent produced by the schools and as a consumer of the business partner skills and resources, you are the essential link to influencing educators. Universities, colleges, partners and ISVs want to better understand your skill requirements, what you look for in future employees, and where you see movement in local business trends.

By attending a roundtable event, you have the opportunity, along with local partners and vendors, to assist in identifying the requirements for a curriculum that best addresses the enterprise systems needs of your business.

If you are interested in working with IBM to schedule a roundtable on campus, please send an e-mail to [zskills@us.ibm.com](mailto:zskills@us.ibm.com).

## 4. Additional opportunities to assist...

### • Offer internships or co-op opportunities to students

Internships and co-op opportunities provide an incentive for students to take valuable courses and provide future employers with an early look at potential new enterprise systems employees.

### • Offer scholarships

Encourage students to study enterprise systems by providing partial or full scholarships. Weigh this option against the expense of in-house training of new employees and you may see that it can offer a great return on investment.

### • Provide grants

Help a school improve its programs by providing a grant. Grants can be used for staff training, teaching materials, salaries for part-time teachers from the industry, etc.

### • Be a guest lecturer or adjunct professor

Visit the campus and meet with students to build interest in pursuing a career in mainframe technologies or teach a class.

### • Become a client representative on a school's board

By attending periodic school board meetings, you can help influence curriculum decisions.

### • Host a "Student Day"

Invite students to visit your company. Have them meet with key technical people to talk about opportunities within your company. Provide a tour of your location.

### • Campus recruiting events and career days

Attend campus events and actively communicate the demand and opportunities for students with enterprise systems knowledge.

One of the main goals of the Academic Initiative program is to ensure that the business community—clients, partners, ISVs and user groups—is well connected with the academic community to ensure that graduates are prepared with the right skills and gain the knowledge they'll need to enter the IT workforce.

### Questions or Comments?

To talk with someone on the Academic Initiative System z team, send an email to [zskills@us.ibm.com](mailto:zskills@us.ibm.com) and a member of our team will contact you.

### Web sites

For much more information on the IBM Academic Initiative program, see the following sites:

- Academic Initiative System z – [ibm.com/university/systemz](http://ibm.com/university/systemz)
- Academic Initiative System z participating schools – [ibm.com/university/systemz](http://ibm.com/university/systemz) (Click on the "Participating schools" tab)
- Academic Initiative Student Opportunity System (student resumes) – [ibm.com/university/sos](http://ibm.com/university/sos)



© Copyright IBM Corporation 2008

IBM Corporation  
New Orchard Rd.  
Armonk, NY 10504  
U.S.A

Produced in the United States of America  
August 2008  
All Rights Reserved

References in this publication to IBM products or services do not imply that IBM intends to make them available in every country in which IBM operates. Consult your local IBM business contact for information on the products, features and services available in your area.

IBM, the IBM logo, [ibm.com](http://ibm.com) and System z are trademarks or registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation in the United States, other countries or both. If these and other IBM trademarked terms are marked on their first occurrence in this information with a trademark symbol (® or ™), these symbols indicate U.S. registered or common law trademarks owned by IBM at the time this information was published. Such trademarks may also be registered or common law trademarks in other countries. A current list of IBM trademarks is available on the Web at "Copyright and trademark information" at [ibm.com/legal/copytrade.shtml](http://ibm.com/legal/copytrade.shtml).

Other trademarks and registered trademarks are the properties of their respective companies.

IBM hardware products are manufactured from new parts or new and used parts. Regardless, our warranty terms apply.

Photographs shown are of engineering prototypes. Changes may be incorporated in production models.

This equipment is subject to all applicable FCC rules and will comply with them upon delivery.



