CETA Student Ambassadors Program – Changing and trending with the times:

The CETA Student Ambassadors Program is evolving this fall 2016 and the 19 CETA Ambassadors are ready for the year! The program was initially conceived and developed in the fall of 2013 by Dr. Hisham Alnajjar (Associate Dean), Dr. Ying Yu (ECE Dept Co-Chair) & Kelly Cofiell (Turner) (Enrollment Manager) through a grant from the Women’s Advancement Initiative (then Women’s Education and Leadership Fund). This program was founded as a female only organization has gone co-ed this fall. The program has been funded by CETA since fall 2015.

As women have historically been under-represented in the engineering and technology disciplines/programs across the nation, including the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture (CETA), the first two-year pilot program was focused on recruiting women student members only. The long term plan for the CETA Student Ambassadors Program was to include a balanced number of both female and male students and that process has begun this fall.

The pilot program expanded from 8 members to 16 in the fall of 2014 due to the effort of a new and energetic leader. Ms. Julie Spring, the CETA Director of Collegiate Student Services, joined the program and she is behind making the program a success within CETA. She hopes to spread the successful program model throughout the university.

The program membership is CETA students from all undergraduate majors and they serve as representatives of CETA. They participate in recruitment events such as Preview Days (open houses), prospective students’ luncheons and receptions interacting with prospective students and families and sharing their knowledge of all the different CETA programs, their unique CETA and University of Hartford experiences. CETA Ambassadors frequently assist with CETA Dean’s events, conduct one-on–one tours, participate in the first-year student mentoring program, and most importantly aim to build a welcoming community within CETA. At the same time, the Ambassadors are given opportunities to enhance their communication skills and leadership skills during their tenure as CETA Student Ambassadors.

In addition to welcoming male student ambassadors this fall, CETA Student Ambassadors Leadership Team will also begin to develop outreach to local high-schools in the hopes of bringing STEM to a few area high schools in CT and looking to share their stories of how they discovered STEM and all it has to offer. This year will also serve as a developmental year as the CETA Student Ambassadors and Leadership Team hope to continue to evolve and grow with the ever changing needs of educational environments, prospective students and their families and industry.

CETA and the current program advisors, Ms. Julie Spring, Dr. Hisham Alnajjar, and Dr. Ying Yu are thrilled to see the student ambassador movement spreading throughout the University of Hartford community and look forward to continued growth and success of all student leaders.

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