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Panel: Interdisciplinary Paradigms for IS Education: The Information School

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Education for the information profession is in a state of radical change and re-design. Academic units are being reorganized around new interdisciplinary paradigms, while new curriculums are being developed to address the needs of a growing and diverse information profession. Existing schools, which offer multiple information degrees and are based upon interdisciplinary models, such as Syracuse, Pittsburgh, Drexel and Rutgers universities have been or are now joined by others, such as the University of Michigan and the University of California at Berkeley. Plans are in place to create new “information schools” at Penn State, Indiana University, UNC Charlotte, and other universities. New information colleges are being considered from the University of Arizona to the University of Rhode Island - and many points between.

Prior to the panel discussion and interaction, one panelist will introduce the changes taking place nationally in these schools in curriculum, interdisciplinary organization, and management. The panel will focus on how this interdisciplinary approach is achieved at Syracuse University’s School of Information Studies, which is celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary under that name with the claim to being the oldest information school of its kind. Panelists will discuss how the School with its five different information degrees, and its intellectually diverse interdisciplinary faculty, can act as a faculty-of-one to permit each of its individual programs to add value to others, and foster a creative and self renewing information school.