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# PANEL SESSION: TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY

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## PANEL SESSION: TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY

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### ABSTRACT

*The field of Information Systems and Technology is relatively young and dynamic. We are all challenged to stay at the leading edge of education in this field while simultaneously providing foundational concepts. The panel is designed to engage the question of whether we need to transform education in Information Systems and Technology. Stakeholders from different domains will provide their points of view and engage the audience in debate.*

### KEYWORDS

Education Transformation, Information Systems, Information Technology

### OBJECTIVES

Information Systems and Technology education is relatively young, yet the field as a whole is very dynamic. Constant developments in information and communication technologies create both opportunities and challenges for people, organizations, and societies as they struggle to understand how best to adopt and use information systems and technologies. Our job as educators is to stay ahead of change and, indeed, to help lead it. Are we doing all we can to ensure leadership in our Information Systems and Technology degree programs? Do we need to transform education in Information Systems and Technology? If so, how do we get started?

The objectives of this panel are to examine these issues and identify critical problems, bottlenecks, and opportunities. The panelists represent the different stakeholders for this topic: faculty, students, administrators, and business leaders.

## **ISSUES TO BE COVERED**

The panel will address the following issues:

- How satisfied are you with the state of education today in information systems and technology (IST)? Is the traditional model of core courses and electives working?
- Do we need to think entirely differently about IST education? An alternate model is to think in terms of major themes that are infused throughout the curriculum, e.g., project management, design, collaboration, visualization, and security.
- How can schools develop a shared set of values and vocabulary around who they are and the transformation that they desire to undergo?

## **PANEL MEMBERS**

### **Panelists**

Alanah Davis is pursuing her Ph.D. in Information Technology in the College of Information Science and Technology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her current research interests include virtual teams, group support systems and e-commerce. Her research work has been presented at various peer-reviewed conferences and workshops. She earned an M.S. in e-commerce from Creighton University prior to joining the Ph.D. program.

Deepak Khazanchi is Professor of Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs of the College of Information Science and Technology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is extremely interested in understanding how Information Technology education will need to be transformed so as to engender a sustainable future for computing disciplines. Some of his current research and development interests include virtual project management, B2B assurance services in extending enterprise environments, and IS/IT research methods and philosophical perspectives in that context. His research has been published in journals such as *DSS*, *Information Systems Management*, *ACM's DATA BASE for Advances in Information Systems*, *Journal of the AIS*, and *Information Processing and Management*.

Ronald McNeil is dean of the College of Business and Management and professor of Business Administration at the University of Illinois at Springfield. His fields of interests and teaching experiences are in strategic management, organizational development and change, and entrepreneurship. His research interests include public policy formulation, international trade and competitive advantages, e-commerce and strategic advantages, and assessment. He is the author or co-author of over 50 publications. Prior to entering academia, he was president of a mining company, senior consultant to Fortune 500 companies, and a manager for a not-for-profit organization. McNeil received his Ph.D. and master's degrees from the University of Memphis and completed his undergraduate degree in England.

Brian Mennecke is the Dean's Faculty Fellow in MIS and an associate professor of Management Information Systems in the College of Business at Iowa State University. Mennecke earned his Ph.D. at Indiana University in Management Information Systems and also holds master's degrees in Geology and Business from Miami University. His research interests include mobile and electronic commerce, virtual

worlds, radio frequency ID (RFID), biometrics, spatial technologies and location-intelligence systems, data visualization and support systems, technology-supported training, and collaborative technologies. He has previously published a book on mobile commerce and articles in academic and practitioner journals such as *Management Information Systems Quarterly*, the *International Journal of Human-Computer Studies*, the *Journal of Management Information Systems*, *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, the *Journal of Computer Information Systems*, and *Small Group Research*.

Robert T. Soles is a partner in the Chicago office of KPMG and has over thirteen years experience providing audit, information risk management and business advisory services to public and privately held companies. Over the years, he has served multi-national clients of all sizes. Soles also serves as the Midwest Partner for Campus Recruiting and the subject matter specialist for IT Audit services. Soles holds a bachelor of Sciences degree from Kent State University. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) in the states of Ohio and Illinois and a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA). Soles is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountant (AICPA), Illinois and Ohio Society of CPAs and the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA). He is also a speaker at ISACA Seminars on IT Controls for Sarbanes-Oxley.

### **Panel Moderator**

Ilze Zigurs is a professor and the Department Chair of Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis in the College of Information Science and Technology at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She holds the Mutual of Omaha Distinguished Chair of Information Science and Technology, and also served as the founding director of the doctoral program in Information Technology. Her Ph.D. is from the University of Minnesota. Zigurs' research examines design, implementation, and use of collaboration technologies, particularly in virtual teams and projects. She is Director-at-Large for MWAIS.