

2009

Panel: A New Direction In Is Higher Education – Ms Programs For Professionals

H. Roland Weistroffer

Virginia Commonwealth University, hrweistr@vcu.edu

Jean Gasen

Virginia Commonwealth University, jbgasen@vcu.edu

Mary Granger

George Washington University, granger@gwu.edu

Michael Morris

University of Virginia, mmorris@virginia.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://aisel.aisnet.org/siged2009>

Recommended Citation

Weistroffer, H. Roland; Gasen, Jean; Granger, Mary; and Morris, Michael, "Panel: A New Direction In Is Higher Education – Ms Programs For Professionals" (2009). *2009 Proceedings*. 26.

<http://aisel.aisnet.org/siged2009/26>

This material is brought to you by the SIGED: IAIM Conference at AIS Electronic Library (AISeL). It has been accepted for inclusion in 2009 Proceedings by an authorized administrator of AIS Electronic Library (AISeL). For more information, please contact elibrary@aisnet.org.

PANEL: A NEW DIRECTION IN IS HIGHER EDUCATION – MS PROGRAMS FOR PROFESSIONALS

H. Roland Weistroffer
School of Business
Virginia Commonwealth University
hrweistr@vcu.edu

Mary Granger
Department of Management Science
George Washington University
granger@gwu.edu

Jean Gasen
School of Business
Virginia Commonwealth University
jbgasen@vcu.edu

Michael Morris
Mcintire School of Commerce
University of Virginia
mmorris@virginia.edu

Abstract:

Changes in information technology (IT) necessitate a renewed reflection on graduate programs in Information Systems (IS). As the IT workforce is becoming increasingly global and diverse, graduate education must respond. To maintain relevance within this changing environment and to meet new market demands, master's programs in information systems, geared especially towards working professionals, are becoming more evident. New integrated formats for learning, with a focus on IT leadership and management, have been emerging in the past ten years. However, the IS/IT education research and literature seem to not have caught on to this new trend yet.

Keywords: professional education, executive programs, master's programs

PANEL OVERVIEW

Many of the master's programs designed for professionals use a weekend format to allow students to participate with minimum disruption to their employment. The curriculum and course material are often structured differently from traditional programs, to better match the interests and needs of these non-traditional students, already deeply ingrained into the professional and business world. Programs are typically lock step, allowing students to complete the program in one or two years, depending on the program, and forming strong relationships with their classmates. Faculty may include professionals and business executives in addition to regular academic university teachers. All these differences from traditional university programs require a rethinking on pedagogy, content delivery, and program administration.

The purpose of this panel is to draw attention to this new trend in professional higher education by reviewing several professional MS programs that focus on IT Management. The outcome of the panel should be a shared understanding of what kind of programs are available, what the challenges are in developing similar programs, how different programs are structured, and what lessons can be learned for those interested in initiating similar programs within their respective colleges and universities.

The total time for the panel, moderated by Roland Weistroffer, will be one hour. Each of the three panelists, Jean Gasen, Mary Granger, and Mike Morris will spend 10 minutes describing the program at his/her respective institution. Specifically, the panelists will address:

- 1) purpose and objectives of the program
- 2) organizational structure and delivery of the program
- 3) unique features that distinguishes the program
- 4) outcomes and lessons learned from the implementation of the programs.

The remaining 30 minutes will be used for discussion and questions to the panelists from the audience.