

Message from the SIM Chief Executive

We are planning and organizing a number of new initiatives to strengthen the relationship between academic leaders in SIM and SIM IT industry leaders.

First, the 2019 IT Trends Study highlights a number of issues in managing information technology. The findings are reported in *MIS Quarterly Executive*. The SIM Academic Council, with representatives of SIM Chapters across the nation, is addressing the issues identified in the 2019 IT Trends study by raising research questions which will provide a better understanding of these important issues. Some of the issues being addressed in research are cybersecurity practices, IT workforce issues, and CIO succession within corporations and organizations. Academic leaders and researchers will be sharing and disseminating their research so that everyone will benefit from gaining a further understanding of the challenges and opportunities.

Additionally, SIM Chapters are organizing dialogues between SIM academic leaders and IT leaders to discuss shared issues. SIM St. Louis and the Gateway Higher Education Cybersecurity Consortium co-hosted a discussion of the gap between workforce needs in cybersecurity and the pipeline of graduates trained for cybersecurity roles. The dialogue, organized by Mary Sumner, provided a better understanding of workforce needs in cybersecurity and will result in academic programs which are designed to meet these needs. SIM Dallas Fort Worth organized a Symposium on Ethical Issues in Data Analytics and provided another opportunity for the exchange of ideas between academic members and SIM industry leaders. The symposium, organized by Ulrike Schultz, provided a useful and emerging dialogue. In upcoming months, other SIM Chapters will be organizing similar dialogues between academic leaders and SIM industry members.

We strongly support opportunities to bridge the gap between teaching, research, and practice by strengthening these conversations and discussions at both the SIM Chapter level and SIM national level. We are currently planning a SIM National Conversation webinar event which will engage a panel of academic researchers and industry experts to discuss CIO succession and CIO leadership qualities. That conversation is planned for June, 2020. We appreciate these events and opportunities because they will enable all of us to work together to strengthen programs in colleges and universities which generate the IT talent we need within organizations.

Best regards,

Mark Taylor, *CEO*
SIM - Society for Information Management