

Message from the SIM Chief Executive

The SIM Academic Council has organized three research subgroups to identify research opportunities which address the Key Trends and Issues in the 2019 SIM IT Trends Study. These three research subgroups are focusing on: (1) cybersecurity; (2) CIO leadership; and (3) data analytics.

The Cybersecurity sub-group, led by a team consisting of Dan Mazzola (Arizona State), Keri Pearson (MIT), Chris Maurer (University of Virginia), Tom Kaczmarek (Marquette) and Mary Sumner, has developed an on-line survey to identify cybersecurity skills, knowledge and competencies for both entry-level candidates and mid-career professionals (with 5 – 7 years' experience). The survey includes an assessment of technical skills and soft skills. SIM St. Louis members are contributing to a pilot survey. This input will help determine the gaps in skills and knowledge so that academic leaders can plan and design courses and programs to provide the cybersecurity talent that industry leaders are looking for. SIM Chapters will also replicate the cybersecurity skills survey and organize dialogues between academic leaders and industry leaders to discuss the talent gap in cybersecurity.

The CIO Leadership research sub-group, led by Tony Gerth (University of North Texas), is addressing the IT Trends Study finding that an increasing percentage of CIO's are coming from the business side of organizations, as contrasted with internal IT. The team will identify what leadership skills are needed to transition into the role of CIO, and what gaps need to be bridged in preparing IT candidates for the "top job" in IT. The CIO leadership team also includes Mike Eom (University of Portland), Vess Johnson (University of North Texas), Ephriam McClean (Georgia State), Michael Raisinghani (Texas Women's), and Dan Mazzola (Arizona State).

The Data Analytics sub-group, led by Rashmi Jain (Montclair State) is investigating

avenues to bring industry practitioners, academia, and students together to improve the understanding of data analytics needs. This group will identify the skills/knowledge/competencies needed by industry leaders in data analytics, and the gaps between market need and the competencies of current graduates. The Data Analytics group includes Ulrike Schultz (Southern Methodist), Hope Koch (Baylor University), and Anna Sidorova (University of North Texas).

These academic teams will provide opportunities for academic leaders and IT industry leaders in SIM to identify the skills, knowledge and competencies needed for roles in cybersecurity, IT leadership, and data analytics. These dialogues will enable academe and industry to work together to prepare a talented workforce in IT. For more information about these groups, please contact Mary Sumner, SIM Academic Lead, at msumner@siue.edu.

Best regards,

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