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## Message from SIM

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## Message from the SIM Chief Executive

Current and upcoming SIM initiatives, include: (1) the CXO Series; (2) the SIM Executive Retreat—Nov. 17-19, 2021; (3) the SIM Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee; and (4) Discussions with Brian Fitzgerald and Alan Dennis, AIS President(s).

The SIM Academic Council is conducting an assessment of the partnerships between academic leaders and SIM industry leaders within SIM Chapters. Some of the joint academic/industry initiatives being planned and implemented are (1) Industry providing real projects for the Capstone MIS course; (2) Scholarships; (3) STEM projects; (4) tailored professional development and training programs; and (5) practitioners speaking at classes.

In subsequent months, we will invite other SIM Chapter Leaders to talk about their connections to the colleges and universities in order to share best practices. Mark and others reinforced the value of scholarships, mentoring opportunities for students, and internships.

Degan Kettles, Arik Ragowsky, and Keri Pearlson re-iterated the importance of engaging academic professionals in research and practice. Harold Knudson suggested making the connection to the college or university CIO. Norman Lewis suggested that joint initiatives start with unstructured conversations and that projects be driven by people's interests. Mark Taylor suggested that academic participation in SIM Special Interest Groups (DigiRisk, Enterprise Architecture, IT Procurement) might open the door to projects in teaching and research.

Upcoming SIM Academic Initiatives include the (1) Pre-ICIS SIM and MISQE Academic Workshop and (2) the CIO Forum at ICIS 2021 in Austin, Texas. The Pre-ICIS SIM and MISQE Academic Workshop will be held in Austin, TX on Saturday, December 11, 2021. The Theme is: Crisis-Driven Digital Transformation. The Challenge of Crisis-Driven Digital Transformation is summarized below:

*Local and global grand challenges such as political unrest, climate change, and financial insecurity often create crises for businesses, which can challenge—and sometimes overthrow—the way things are done. Little guidance exists to help organizational leaders and employees manage sudden, external shocks to business processes and even core values. For example, what do organizations do when a crisis challenges their existing systems, such as how the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath have impacted just-in-time inventory, supply chain systems, and employment systems? How do organizations connect employees to their mission and values when many employees now work in hybrid environments? How do organizations measure the contribution of remote workers without alienating them? While many of these shifts challenge existing business models, they also represent enormous opportunities for companies to adapt to meet the needs disruption creates (e.g., Zoom, Instacart, Amazon).*

Abstract submission link: [https://uab.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_da1M00yfyDshqKO](https://uab.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_da1M00yfyDshqKO)

Best to everyone and thank you for your leadership in connecting academic practice to industry practice.

Mark Taylor, SIM CEO

*SIM - Society for Information Management*