

Spivey, Paul

Page: Basic Information

Nominator Information

Please provide your information as the nominator of this partnership.

Your Name

Spivey, Paul

Email Address

pspivey@bpcc.edu

Title

Assistant Dean

Employer

Bossier Parish Community College

Phone Number

318-678-6293

Your Relationship to the Partnership?

I was the previous Project Director over the GDIT/LED Program providing grant oversight and helping to cultivate a relationship with our industry partner, GDIT (formally CSRA). I am familiar with all activities and aspects of the grant including employment metrics, reporting, budget, recruitment, enrollment, retention, and curricular updates.

The Partners: Business & Industry

Please provide basic information on the business and industry organizations involved in the partnership.

Business/Industry Partner 1

Business/Organization Name

General Dynamics Information Technology (formally CSRA)

Address

6310 East Texas St.
Bossier City Louisiana 71111 US

Website

<https://www.csra.com/itc/>

Main Career Clusters within Industry

Information Technology

Point of Contact

Mimi Hedgecock

Title

External Affairs - Integrated Technology Center

Email

Mimi.Hedgcock@csra.com

Business/Industry Partner 2 (if applicable)**Business/Organization Name**

Louisiana Economic Development

Address

627 North 4th Street
Baton Rouge Louisiana 70802 US

Website

<https://www.opportunitylouisiana.com/case-studies/csra>

Main Career Clusters within Industry

Other

Point of Contact

Susana (Susie) Schowen

Title

Director of Workforce Initiatives

Email

Susana.Schowen@LA.GOV

Business/Industry Partner 3 (if applicable)

Business/Organization Name

Address

Website

Main Career Clusters within Industry

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Provide information on any other additional business & industry partners not listed above. Also, please use this opportunity to briefly explain the unique roles of these businesses in the partnership (if there are more than one involved.)

The Partners: Educational Institutions & Programs

Please provide basic information on the educational institutions and/or programs involved in the partnership.

Education Partner 1

Educational Institution/Program Name

Bossier Parish Community College (LED Program)

Address

6220 East Texas St.
Bossier City Louisiana 71111 US

Website

<http://bpcc.edu/>

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Community or Technical College

Point of Contact

Rachel Basco

Title

Project Director

Email

rbasco@bpcc.edu

Education Partner 2 (if applicable)**Educational Institution/Program Name****Address****Website****What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)****Point of Contact**

Title

Email

Education Partner 3 (if applicable)

Educational Institution/Program Name

Address

Website

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Provide information on any other education partners not listed above. Also, please use this opportunity to briefly explain the unique roles of these educational institutions/programs in the partnership (if there are more than one involved.)

Page: Support Information

1. What problem was this partnership developed to solve?

In 2014, a partnership between Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) was established and BPCC, along with two other institutions, became educational partners to CSC. CSC has since merged with SRA to become CSRA and was recently bought out by General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) in 2018.

LED and the state of Louisiana put together a competitive package so that GDIT (then CSC) would choose Bossier City, Louisiana as its site location. As a result, GDIT set a goal to hire 800 individuals in Northwest Louisiana.

The partnership helps to solve a major problem in Louisiana where Louisiana graduates no longer have to leave for other states to work in IT.

As a result, the tax dollars (income, sales, property, etc.) of those individuals are recirculated into the community. Institutions like BPCC benefit from the partnerships and see an increase in enrollment in its IT programs.

2. What steps were taken to get the partnership started?

In 2013, CSC hired a consulting firm to complete a national site selection search of 134 potential locations around the country for a new technology center. The Cyber Innovation Center's Craig Spohn approached CSC about locating in Bossier City, LA. Originally, Bossier City was not even a location in consideration. Mr. Spohn and local leaders met with CSC representatives and showcased what the region had to offer. In particular, CSC would be able to build what is now the Integrated Technology Center on the 3,000 acre National Research Park in Bossier City. The Cyber Innovation Center created the park in an attempt to attract companies like CSC to the area. Additionally, institutions like BPCC had designed IT programs that be a pipeline for CSC.

Once the decision was made for CSC to locate in Bossier City, a partnership was made between LED, CSC, and BPCC. CSC has since become GDIT.

3. Describe how the partnership was designed to support high-quality CTE.

The GDIT/LED Program meets all 12 CTE elements.

1-Standards-aligned and Integrated Curriculum- GDIT hiring managers provide continuous feedback on curriculum through advisory boards, round tables, and academic summits. BPCCC created a new AAS Systems Administration degree in partnership with GDIT.

2-Sequencing and Articulation- Programs are sequenced to promote continued learning and application. Courses are mapped to industry based certifications through CompTIA, Cisco, and Microsoft. BPCCC has local and national articulation agreements.

3-Student Assessment- Students are assessed on multiple levels including: exams, quizzes, and finals, national certification exams, mock interviews, internship site evaluators, etc.

4-Prepared and Effective Program Staff- All instructors have a masters in an IT related field and have obtained or are working to obtain the certification tied to the respective classes.

5-Engaging Instruction- Students work in teams and on their own and are provided a plethora of hands-on opportunities including using tools such as wireshark, nmap, Ubuntu, packet tracer, etc.

6-Access and Equity- The GDIT/LED program is available to any BPCCC student wanting to take part in its offerings.

7-Facilities and Equipment- Labs are up-to-date with cisco routers, switches, software, computers, tools, monitors, our own VLAN, etc.

8-Business and Community Partnerships- BPCCC has double digit MOUs with companies to offer IT internship opportunities. Advisory boards are a good mix of industry, economic development partners, and academia.

9-Career Development- All programs are updated annually to reflect the skills needed for the workplace. Special workshops are designed to help students with interviewing, resumes, applying, etc.

10-Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)- BPCCC has a cyber club open to all IT majors where instructors take turns leading sessions.

11-Work-based Learning- Programs include an internship capstone, site tours, employer led workshops, etc.

12-Data and Program Improvement- Better data collection for employment has resulted from the program for reporting.

4. What were the results of the partnership? What was innovative about the partnership or its output? How did it benefit students and the community?

As a result of the partnership, Louisiana residents can stay local and find a job in the information technology field rather than leaving the state. Tax dollars of those individuals are recirculated into the community. Indirect jobs are created from the 800 IT jobs that GDIT has filled. BPCC's cyber programs are stronger than ever and enrollment has increased. Since the partnership started, GDIT has employed more than 75 BPCC students and 20 students have interned at GDIT.

GDIT actively contributes to BPCC's advisory boards, internship program and placement, mock interviews, resume and interviewing workshops, classroom guest lectures, facility tours, informational sessions, joint recruiting events, academic summits, career fairs, curriculum updates, new course development, boot camps, articulation agreements, and more.

Most importantly, the cyber programs at BPCC have been updated to mirror what a graduate will experience when working in the IT industry. This allows our graduates to hit the ground running when they enter the workforce. GDIT constantly provides feedback on ways that our students are hitting the mark and also areas that need to be tweaked.

GDIT has truly been the ideal industry partner. The partnership with GDIT has been innovative and has been the model across the state on how industry and academia can work together.

5. What were the lessons learned during the process of building the partnership? What would you have done differently?

Honestly, the partnership has been one of the cleanest and easiest partnerships that I have been experienced. From top down, the leadership and hiring managers at GDIT have been true partners. The level of collaboration is inspiring. We are taking so many of the best-practices from the program and are now implementing them across other programs and across campus.

The only wish that I would have is that I could have helped facilitate the partnership sooner.

6. Is this partnership sustainable? How do you anticipate it will change in the coming year(s)?

The IT programs at BPCC have received an infusion of funds through the GDIT/LED program. This infusion has allowed us to update labs, purchase software, hire more IT faculty, receive professional development training, update curriculum, teach special boot camps, pay for student vouchers to take certification exams, create marketing materials, recruit, purchase better data-analytic tools, developed stronger partnerships with IT employers.

Through these efforts, enrollment has increased meaning that the programs are becoming stronger. Money collected through tuition and student fees feeds back into the program helping to be sustainable. The groundwork has been laid and GDIT sees the quality of student being produced by BPCC. There is no better testament to this than the number of students hired by GDIT since the partnership began. To date more than 75 BPCC students have been hired in an IT-related position!!

7. How long did it take to create this partnership?

1 - 2 years

8. How large of an investment did the businesses and other partner(s) involved make in this partnership (time and money)?

Over a ten year period, LED will invest 2.5 million into the program at BPCC. Additionally, LED has provided funding to GDIT to build the Information Technology Center in Bossier City, LA. It has also developed other partnerships with 4 year institutions providing additional funds to those institutions.

Countless hours have been invested in standing up the program and keeping the program and partnership going. GDIT contributes to BPCC's advisory boards, internship program and placement, mock interviews, resume and interviewing workshops, classroom guest lectures, facility tours, informational sessions, joint recruiting events, academic summits, career fairs, curriculum updates, new course development, boot camps, articulation agreements, and more.

With the investment, GDIT set a goal to hire 800 employees by June 2018. During the first quarter of 2018, GDIT did just that and hit the 800 mark. This was all as a result of the investment!!

9. Would you or an associate be willing to present a session at an ACTE event about this partnership?

Yes