MIT EECS:
Industrial Affiliates Program(s)

Eric Grimson
Industrial connections

• Industrial Connection Program
  – Formal affiliates program

• VI-A Program
  – Student internship program

• Industrial Projects Program
  – Student research projects on-campus

• Industrial collaborations through affiliated research labs
Industrial Connection Program

• Formal mechanism for interactions between companies and students in EECS
• Primary focus is on providing companies access to students for recruiting; and on providing visibility of companies to students
• Member companies benefit from enhanced on-campus visibility and assistance with recruiting events;
• Students benefit from specific information about opportunities for summer internships and permanent employment
Industrial Connection Program

• Fees: $15K/year
• Roughly 20 companies currently
• Events:
  – Fall ICP Career Fair – 350+ students attend
  – ICP Information sessions for individual companies – 60-150 attendees per event
  – Technical talks by company representatives – 30-60 attendees per event
Industrial Connection Program

• Engagement of faculty – tends to be minimal at early stages; mostly handled by staff
• Staff support – 50% of one full time staff member
Industrial Connection Program

• Summary of company benefits:
  – Recruiting information sessions
  – Technical talks feature speakers from member companies
  – On-campus opportunities to meet informally with students
  – Invitations to participate in student-run panels and conferences
  – Annual career fair
  – Facilitate logistics for on-campus visits
  – Publicize summer and permanent job listings year-round
  – Identify student interests and backgrounds that match company needs
  – Educational opportunities for employees of member companies
    • Special student status to take MIT courses
    • Information on technical seminars of interest at MIT
  – Visibility of ICP members on EECS home page (averages 1000 hits per day)
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Industrial Projects Program

• Connects local industry with M.Eng students
  – Companies brainstorm research needs, come up with "requests for proposal"
  – Interested EECS seniors write MEng proposals
  – Companies review proposal, make "supervision offers"
  – Students do MEng thesis on campus with joint company/faculty supervision
  – Companies also provide summer internships and grad year support for MEng students
Industrial Projects Program

• Benefits
  – Students have real-world thesis opportunities, gain excellent guidance and mentoring
  – Companies benefit from creative research and access to students at early stage