

2023 CEED AWARD WINNERS



Co-op Student of the Year

Faisal Alam
Clemson University

Faisal Alam received his Industrial Engineering degree from Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina in December 2022. He completed three co-op rotations at GE Aviation at their Cincinnati, OH and West Jefferson, NC. He then joined BMW's supplier management team for "X" vehicles at the Spartanburg, SC factory. After BMW, Faisal joined Tesla, where he completed two rotations in Austin, TX and Palo Alto, CA. In Austin, he helped set up the new factory's infrastructure and ramp Model Y production; in Palo Alto, he worked as a Project Manager on the Cybertruck team.

On Clemson's campus, Faisal was closely involved with the Muslim Student Association (MSA), serving as the treasurer and recruitment chair. His efforts contributed to the MSA winning the Outstanding Commitment to Service award and Organization of the Year three times.

Outside of school, Faisal is a social media influencer. He has also led multiple charity fundraisers to build water wells in Africa and support orphans overseas.

Hephzibah Rajan will graduate with a BS in Computer Science in May of 2023 from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT. During her undergraduate studies, she has gathered extensive experience, both on and off campus.

Hephzibah interned for Aetna CVS Health the summer after her junior year where she got to work on code management and assist in improving code coverage for several projects amongst other responsibilities. Prior to that, Hephzibah worked at Defibtech, building a website to read information from a defibrillator's data card and display it as a graph for user analysis. Currently, she is working on a model with fellow classmates to understand the impact of the urban heat island effect on Quinnipiac's campuses.

Additionally, she is involved in the campus community as a leader and a mentor for students. Hephzibah is the President of the International Student Association, and the Vice President of the Grand Challenge Scholars Program Club currently. She is also a facilitator for Girls Who Code, tutoring girls of ages 7-14 to code simple programs and develop an inventor mindset.



Intern Student of the Year

Hephzibah Rajan
Quinnipiac University

Thank you to our Student of the Year Sponsors
for their generous support:
University of Toledo, College of Engineering
Daniel Vornhagen

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Lou Takacs Award

*Daniel Vornhagen
Danis Building
Construction Company*

Daniel Vornhagen is the Pre-Construction Manager at Danis Building Construction Company in Miamisburg, Ohio. He has served the company for over 30 years and wears many hats within the organization as Director of Co-Op Program, Training Coordinator, and Talent & Acquisition for Entry Level Project Engineers. Daniel has been involved with the coaching and mentoring of over (275) co-op students the past 15 years and manages the complete life cycle of the 70+ co-ops, which spans across 3 states on a yearly basis.

He developed the Co-Op Challenge to incorporate the following:

- Day of Appreciation / Recognition you Young Professionals.
- Opportunity meet one another, learn to work as a team, foster new resources and most importantly friendships.
- Our Co-Op Program is the Foundation of our company's success.
- Our People are what makes Danis a great company and Co-Op Students are the future of our company.
- Strengthen relationships with our University partners.
- Danis is unique in its ability to self-perform. Learn processes and resources involved- labor, materials, equipment to ultimately become better managers.

In 2022, there were 175 people in attendance, including 11 institution representatives, and 46 students from Ohio, Florida, and the Carolinas.

In addition to Daniel's commitments at Danis, he serves in multiple roles with associations dedicated to work-based learning. Daniel is involved with the Ohio Cooperative Education Association and presents on a variety of topics to engage career services professionals and industry representatives in key discussions on the state's workforce needs. Daniel is the Industry Representative on the ASEE CEED Board and has launched a series of virtual townhalls for employers across the nation to discuss hiring trends and challenges. Also, Daniel is an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Cincinnati for the Architectural Engineering, Civil Engineering and Construction Management Department. He is one of the senior capstone instructors for the Construction Management program.

CEED Awards Reception

*Thursday, February 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the
Hotel Lobby Bar Area*

Join us in celebrating our awardees.