

Bringing DEPTH to an Engineering Education

Philip M. Coniglio, DeMatteis School Co-op Director

Philip.M.Coniglio@hofstra.edu

As we enter the spring 2024 semester, we are starting the ninth full year of our co-op program. It has been an exciting and challenging journey and based on input shared by co-op students as well as host companies, it has been a great success story! More companies continue to be added to the list of those who hire our students for this six-to-eight month experience, and both they and the students are direct beneficiaries of the arrangement. In fact, many of the students, once they graduate from Hofstra, are working permanently for one of our corporate co-op partners.

But we are not resting on our past laurels. Our school is now in the process of expanding this experiential learning activity with a brand new program called DeMatteis Experiences for Professional Training and Hiring (DEPTH).

Starting with the fall 2024 semester cohort of engineering first-year students, it will be a graduation requirement to complete an experiential learning activity (ELA) such as a co-op, summer internship or one of a list of other approved activities. The goal of the DEPTH program is to ensure that our students have a competitive resume including work experience to complement their GPA and other academic accomplishments.

My office has taken on the responsibility of steering this program, and I am looking forward to working with each of the students to help them complete this new ELA requirement. Remember that one of the major advantages of the DeMatteis co-op program is that we are with the students each step of the way to locating a suitable co-op job. It will be likewise with the wider DEPTH program, where my office will be a resource to assist students in building up their readiness for the workforce through experiencing one or more of a variety of professional activities.

We also launched a pilot mentorship program this past semester with twelve students who were part of our very successful Women's Summer Program in Computing/Engineering (W-SPiCE). Each student was matched up with a mentor who has been working professionally in the student's field of interest, who can serve as a role model in that student's future decision-making about a career. If at the end of the spring semester, this pilot program is deemed a success by the participants, we plan on expanding it to include a wider array of students. Of course that means expanding the network of alumni and other professionals who agree to work with our students, but knowing the enthusiasm that so many of our graduates have for their alma mater, that is a challenge I think we can successfully address.

For further information about the co-op program, please feel free to reach out to me by phone at (516) 463-5548 or by email at Philip.M.Coniglio@hofstra.edu, and be sure to check out our website at <https://www.hofstra.edu/dematteis-co-op/>.

[DeMatteis School Spring 2024 Newsletter]