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The Capstone Experience

From Students...
...to professionals.

“Auto-Owners Insurance is proud to be a capstone project sponsor. Our strategic partnership has enabled us to identify and recruit outstanding MSU graduates.”

– Robert Buchanan
Sr. Vice President
Information Systems and Technology
Auto-Owners Insurance

Capstone Clients

- Accident Fund Insurance
- Auto-Owners Insurance
- Boeing
- Chrysler
- Dow
- Ford
- GE Aviation
- General Motors
- IBM
- Medtronic
- Meijer
- Michigan State University
- Microsoft
- Motorola Mobility
- Sircon
- Raytheon
- Sparrow Health Systems
- Spectrum Health
- TechSmith
- Terex
- Toro
- Two Men and a Truck
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Urban Science

Dr. Wayne Dyksen
Computer Science and Engineering
Michigan State University
The Michigan State University Computer Science Capstone Experience

**Project Sponsorship**

Capstone projects are sponsored by corporate clients that include local, regional, and national companies ranging in size from small to very large.

Prior to each semester, project proposals are solicited from potential sponsors by the course instructor, Dr. Wayne Dyksen. After appropriate vetting and refinement, the winning proposals are selected.

The total number of sponsorships available is limited to about eight in the fall semester and ten in the spring.

Project sponsorship is $3,000.

**Benefits of Sponsorship**

The benefits of capstone project sponsorship include:

- a guaranteed slot for a capstone project,
- significant visibility with our graduating seniors;
- assistance with recruiting students,
- opportunities to present at our all-hands meetings,
- assistance with organizing and publicizing on-campus corporate informational sessions,
- postings on the course Career Opportunities page,
- publicity in our Capstone Experience presentation displayed in the Capstone Lab and on the website,
- a project page and special acknowledgement in The Capstone Experience booklet,
- broad corporate publicity on Design Day, and
- a project page and special acknowledgement in the Design Day booklet.

**Design Day**

At the end of each semester, the College of Engineering sponsors Design Day, on which student teams from all of the capstone courses in the College showcase their projects to the general public. Attendees include students, faculty, and families, along with hundreds of local junior high and high school students.

Computer science capstone teams present to a panel of corporate judges, competing for prestigious Design Day Awards.

See [www.capstone.cse.msu.edu](http://www.capstone.cse.msu.edu).

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**CSE 498, Collaborative Design**, provides the educational capstone experience for all students majoring in computer science. Teams of students build significant software systems for corporate clients.

During the Capstone Experience, students

- design, develop, debug, document, and deliver a software system for a corporate client,
- work in a team environment,
- develop written and oral communication skills,
- become proficient with software development tools and environments,
- build and administer systems, and
- consider issues of professionalism and ethics.

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