

# CRA Conference at Snowbird 2006 Industry Affiliates Panel

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# Goal

- Industrial affiliate (IA) programs are often considered to be effective ways to increase academic/industrial collaboration and
- Generate discretionary income for CS departments.



# Description of our IA program

- Our Industry Affiliate program is called the Lockheed Martin Storefront
- Collaborative effort among the following:
  - NASA
  - Lockheed Martin Space Operations (LMSO), NASA contractor
  - Cimarron, sub contractor to LMSO, woman owned business
  - Prairie View A&M University, prime contractor, HBCU
- As part of the NASA initiative to direct 1% of all prime and subcontractor monies to support HBCUs and MSIs



# Description of our IA program

- Established in 2001
- September 2001 opened a “storefront” at PVAMU where students are trained and hired to perform software engineering work under the supervision of LMSO and Cimarron employees
- Students who are hired are treated as LMSO employees with all attached obligations (security, drug screening, work status, etc)



# Current status

- Almost all of the good students in the BS computer science program work at the storefront
- Work schedule is flexible (max 20 hours) and minimum GPA requirement to maintain is 2.75
- They complete some incredible projects for NASA and LMSO
- Get used to software engineering and project management concepts such as distance team meetings, deadlines, time management
- Contract has been extended up to 2010 with annual renewals



# Staff and Faculty Support

- Operational activities managed by Cimarron employees
- Project is through the PV Research Foundation
- One Faculty member manages student information and budget through part-time support



# Benefits to Students and Employers

- Students gain experience that cannot be learned from a college textbook or classroom
- Real world experience increases advantages for students when seeking employment
- Employers gain access to an incredible resource – a fresh graduate with nearly two years of full-time equivalent real-world software engineering experience



# Benefits to the members

- NASA meets its directive of 1% support to HBCUs and MIs
- Lockheed Martin is commended for working with minority owned sub contractors (Cimarron) and HBCUs
- PV benefits because its students have jobs while studying and have several job offers from aerospace companies upon graduation
- Representatives from member companies also sit on Industry Advisory Council of various engineering departments
- Win-Win-Win for all





# Outcomes

- Degrees of student employees:
  - Computer Science, Electrical Engg, Mechanical Engg, Computer and Electrical Engg Tech
- Companies hiring students with LMSO experience:
  - Lockheed Martin (Houston, Denver, Ft. Worth, Washington DC)
  - United Space Alliance, Raytheon, Exxon Mobil, Accenture, Boeing

