## CIE/USA-DFW Chapter 2023 Annual Convention Career Development Roundtable

The Career Development Round Table 2023, a fresh addition to the CIE/USA-DFW Chapter's portfolio, unfolded on September 30th, set against the backdrop of The University of Texas at Dallas campus, as a pivotal component of the CIE's Annual Convention. This innovative event featured two distinct segments catering to both professionals and students, with a unified mission: to captivate the interest of budding talents and integrate them into our dynamic community.

Structured meticulously, each program facilitated close-knit interactions between participants and industry experts, creating a unique and intimate learning environment. This approach was carefully crafted to foster engagement and provide invaluable insights to those attending.

## **Professionals Session:**

The professionals' session was thoughtfully structured around four pivotal areas, with each segment being guided by an esteemed industry expert:

**Workplace Networking** - Jackson Ku, Lead Member of Technical Staff at Network CTO, AT&T, led this segment, imparting his wealth of knowledge and experience in the realm of networking within the workplace.

**Presentation Skills** - DaWane Wanek, a Distinguished Toastmaster and retired professional from Palo Alto Networks, took charge of this crucial component. With his expertise, participants honed their presentation skills to perfection.

**Stress Management/Work-Life Balance** - Kimberly Traylor, a Senior Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Consultant at ONCOR, shared her insights and strategies for stress management and maintaining a healthy work-life balance, addressing a pressing concern in the professional world.

**Career Planning/Career Transitioning** - Nakshatra Gajbhiye, IPP-PMIC Product Line Manager at Texas Instruments, Inc., served as the guiding light for those navigating the intricacies of career planning and transitions.



Career Development Round Table 2023 - Professional session participants, resource persons and volunteers.

The program was skillfully orchestrated by Yanping Chen. Grace Tyler, Co-Presidents of the CIE/USA-DFW Chapter commenced the event with inspiring opening remarks, setting the tone for an engaging and enriching experience. Batuk Bista, the event chair, concluded the proceedings with closing remarks that encapsulated the day's learnings and highlighted the importance of such gatherings in fostering professional growth and community cohesion.

Participants were grouped into four distinct tables, a dynamic arrangement that facilitated comprehensive learning. To ensure a diverse exchange of knowledge and networking opportunities, these groups rotated every 25 minutes, offering a well-rounded and interactive experience for all attendees.





With an impressive turnout of over 40 eager participants, the session created an environment conducive to active engagement. Attendees relished the chance to pose questions and interact with the resource persons in intimate, smaller settings. This setup encouraged open dialogue, enabling attendees to delve deeper into the subject matter and gain a more thorough understanding of the topics discussed. Such a robust exchange of ideas undoubtedly enriched the overall learning experience for all involved

## **Students Session:**

The student session was thoughtfully divided into three crucial areas, each expertly guided by distinguished industry leaders:

**How to Prepare for the Job Market** - Dr. Peter E. Crouch, Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington, shared invaluable insights into effectively preparing for the competitive job market, drawing from his extensive academic and professional experience.

Resume Preparation, Interviewing Skills, and Personal Branding - Arthur Campbell, Lead Talent Acquisition at AT&T, spearheaded this segment, offering students expert guidance on crafting compelling resumes, honing their interviewing skills, and developing a distinctive personal brand to stand out in the job market.

**Stress Management** - Dr. Sherry Fu, a renowned psychiatrist, delved into the critical topic of stress management, equipping students with strategies to maintain mental well-being as they navigate the challenges of academics and career preparation.

The program was skillfully managed by Joseph Delsoin. Dr. Lun Tsuei, Co-Presidents of the CIE/USA-DFW Chapter, who set the tone with their opening remarks. Devendra Shah provided thoughtful closing remarks, summarizing the day's takeaways and emphasizing the significance of the session.

Additionally, the program featured a dynamic panel discussion, offering participants a unique opportunity to directly engage with industry experts, ask questions, and gain further insights into their chosen fields of study and career aspirations. This interactive element added a valuable dimension to the event, fostering meaningful connections and learning opportunities for the students.



Front row: L to R - Dr. Sherry Fu, Dr. Peter E. Crouch and Arthur Campbell. Back row: L to R - Joseph Delsoin, Dr. Lun Tsuei, Devendra Shah

The student session drew an impressive audience of over 40 students hailing from diverse universities across the DFW (Dallas-Fort Worth) area. These eager participants were granted the unique opportunity to gain insights from a well-rounded panel of experts, including an academic authority, a corporate recruiter, and a psychiatrist. This diverse range of perspectives ensured that students received a comprehensive understanding of the crucial aspects of career preparation, mental well-being, and the transition to the job market. Such an enriching experience undoubtedly contributed to the holistic development of these aspiring professionals as they charted their future paths.



Career Development Round Table 2023 - Students session participants, resource persons and volunteers.