FITCHBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
School of BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER 2025-2026



Dr. Mahmoud Al-Odeh Dean of Business and Technology

A Message from the Dean: Reflecting on a Year of Growth

Reflecting on my first year as Dean of the School of Business and Technology, I feel a deep sense of gratitude for our exceptional faculty, staff, and students. This year has truly been about laying our bedrock, and I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together.

Our collective efforts have centered on driving students' success by expanding our recruitment strategies and creating a supportive environment where they can thrive. At the same time, we have elevated our academic reputation through remarkable faculty publications and spotlights, showcasing global research achievements while fostering our internal community through training in ethical leadership and our inaugural "Meet and Eat" events.

We have also championed curriculum innovation by modernizing our course offerings, highlighted by the exciting launch of our new joint Finance degree with the Economics Department. Finally, we have deeply strengthened our industry connections, integrating real-world expertise into our programs through guest lectures and immersive experiences. We have built a solid foundation this year, and I look forward to entering our next chapter of innovation and growth alongside all of you.



STUDENT SUCCESS

IEEE Club Places 4th in Regional Micromouse Competition

Fitchburg State's IEEE Student Club placed 4th in the Region 1 Micromouse Competition in Long Island and won a $500 award. Two team members secured job offers post-graduation, and they're now training for next year's MIT Micromouse Competition. *Check out the team's competition video on YouTube*.



Business Students Partner with MassDOT and the City of Leominster on Speed Awareness Initiative

Fitchburg State University business students are leading the Leominster Speed Awareness Campaign in collaboration with MassDOT. Through research on speeding behaviors and demographics, they developed a public safety campaign for their semester project. Students presented their strategies to MassDOT experts, receiving thoughtful and constructive feedback.



2026 AGC National Convention Orlando, Florida

Fitchburg State University's Miles Ford and Alisha Praileau represented the AGC Student Chapter at the 2026 AGC National Convention in Orlando, connecting with industry leaders and exploring trends in construction. They returned with valuable insights and a strong professional network.





Students Present AI Robotics Research at Princeton University

Congratulations to students Olufunke Ehineni and Roshen Kyewalyanga, who presented their research at the 16th IEEE Integrated STEM Education Conference (ISEC) Princeton University! Mentored by Dr. Hong Yu, the cross-departmental duo co-authored and presented their compelling poster session, “AI Training Through Micromouse.”

Annual Design Competition

The Engineering Technology department held its 7th Annual Student Project and Design Competition, along with the AGC Student Chapter Logo Design Contest. The events culminated in an awards presentation during the Engineering Technology End-of-Semester BBQ, which took place under perfect weather conditions. In the Project and Design Competition, Ali Ahmad Asif was awarded the top prize for his project, "The Use of Bio-Based Material in Architecture." He was followed closely by first runner-up Kevin Borges with his project, "RFID Decoding for Music Selection," and second runner-up Devin Current, who presented "AI Detection of Defects in Milling Bits." Additionally, Cesar Daniel Pinelo Gregorio was recognized as the official winner of the AGC Student Chapter Logo Design Contest. This event highlighted an impressive showcase of student talent and innovation.





Student Success at the Undergraduate Research Conference



Congratulations to all the School of Business and Technology students who presented their work at the recent Undergraduate Conference. While the talent across the board was outstanding, we want to give a special shout-out to our two big conference winners! Yaw Koosono won the Outstanding Technology Demonstration Award for his project on Edge AI facial analytics, and Rochelle Hebert secured 1st place for the Outstanding Poster Presentation Award in Business and Technology for her project on sustainable commercial architecture. Congratulations to Yaw, Rochelle, and everyone who participated in an excellent showcase of scholarship!

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

How Fitchburg State Prepared Me for Dell Technologies

By Jarred Brown



The School of Business & Technology completely shaped the leader I am today. As a freshman, I was shy and intimidated by public speaking, but the weekly presentations and encouragement in Dr. Greenwood's *Principles of Management class helped me build true confidence.* The professors here genuinely care; they bring decades of industry experience and take the time to know your personal goals. By combining concentrations in Management and Information Systems Management, I gained a strong foundation in both leadership and data analytics, which I put to use during a great internship with Enterprise Mobility. This program helped me discover a passion for connecting with people and working with technology, which ultimately led me to accept a full-time offer with Dell Technologies. I am incredibly grateful for the mentorship and community at Fitchburg State that pushed me out of my comfort zone and into an exciting career.

From the Retail Floor to the Executive Suite

The School of Business and Technology is incredibly proud to celebrate newly appointed Staples Vice President of Marketplace, Adam Nadeau, who graduated with his online MBA at the May 16 commencement! A local resident, Adam chose Fitchburg State for its elite reputation, affordability, and asynchronous flexibility, allowing him to balance a high-powered career and family without taking on student debt. During his interview process for the VP role, Adam directly utilized cutting-edge insights from an FSU course on Artificial Intelligence in management to land the job. Congratulations, Adam, on capturing the true high-value impact of a Fitchburg State MBA!





Charles Stevenson Receives the 2026 Antonucci Award

A massive congratulations to dual Computer Science and Mathematics major Charles Stevenson, who was named the recipient of the 2026 Robert V. and Jeanne S. Antonucci Award—the highest honor bestowed upon a graduating senior at Fitchburg State! Announced by President Dr. Donna Hodge, this prestigious award recognized Stevenson, an Army Reserve veteran and father of two, for his peerless academic excellence and transformative campus leadership. As the award recipient, he delivered an inspiring student address at the undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 16. We are incredibly proud of Charles for embodying the very best of the Falcon spirit!

Cameron Sousa Returns to Campus



The Engineering Technology Department welcomed back alumnus Cameron Sousa ('23) as a guest speaker! Since graduating from Fitchburg State with his B.S. in Construction Management, Cameron has excelled as an Assistant Project Manager at Columbia Construction Company in North Reading, MA. He shared his recent hands-on experience managing major regional projects, including the new Lonza/Albacore Bio Lab construction in Portsmouth, NH, and a major renovation of the Sheraton Hotel in Boston. It was wonderful having our former Associated General Contractor (AGC) Student Chapter President back on campus to inspire and mentor our current students!



Marcus Perla ('22) Discusses Career Success in Engineering

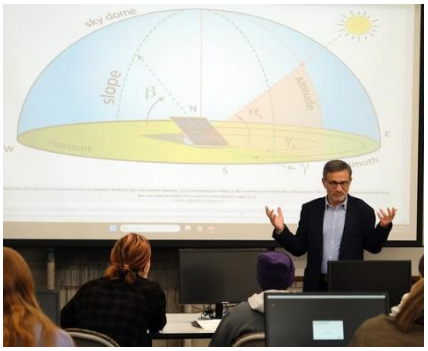
Kudos to Electronics Engineering Technology alumnus Marcus Perla (’22) for returning to campus to present "College to Career: Keys to Obtaining the Path of Least Resistance." As a PCB Design Engineer at Enercon Technologies, Marcus gave students an inside look at his work developing cutting-edge medical devices, military electronics, and aerospace projects bound for the International Space Station. We are proud to see our former SGA Senator and IEEE student branch founder thriving in the industry and taking the time to give back.

BUILDING THE PIPELINE

Strengthening regional pathways: Monty Tech students explore Business and Technology



The School of Business and Technology recently hosted students and faculty from Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School's (Monty Tech) Engineering and IT Programs for a day of exploration and college pathway opportunities. The Computer Science Department offered IT stu- dents a tour of the campus Data Center and a specialized session on cybersecurity and AI, featuring a guest lecture by Raytheon’s Alexander Commodore on machine learning in defense. Meanwhile the Engineering Technology Department engaged engineering students in a hands-on sustainable design activity where they collaborated with FSU students. The day concluded with lab and campus tours conducted by Admissions.





FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Ricky Sethi



(Computer Science) had his work *"Artificial metacognition: Giving an AI the ability to 'think' about its 'thinking"* recently published in *The Conversa- tion, the Pen City Current, Greenwich Times, The Facts, Life Science, Yahoo! Tech, and the Telegraph.*



Sanjay Kaul's

(Engineering Technology) editorial, "The hidden energy cost of artificial intelligence," was published in The Pioneer.

Charles Courchaine, Ricky J. Sethi, and Hefei Qui (Computer Science)



Have had their research accepted for the ACM Web Conference 2026 in Dubai this April. View their paper *"Implementation of a Metacognition Framework for Self-Awareness and Self-Regulation in Ensembles of LLMs".*

FACULTY AND STAFF SPOTLIGHTS



Distinguished Graduate Faculty Service

Congratulations to Dr. Beverly Hollingsworth on receiving the 2025 Graduate Faculty Award for her exceptional service as MBA Program Chair. Her commitment to student growth and leadership in our programs is greatly appreciated.

Dr. Renee Scapparone Champions Civic and Economic Engagement



Congratulations to Dr. Renee Scapparone for her exceptional work as the Coordinator for the Crocker Center. Renee's dedicated efforts were central to organizing two major recent events on campus that bridge academic research with community action. First, she successfully coordinated the Massachusetts higher education conference, *Civic Discourse in Action*, bringing national experts to campus to discuss democratic engagement. Most recently, she spearheaded the *Building Paths to Economic Opportunity* panel, which united FSU student researchers, regional development leaders, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to tackle local economic barriers. We are incredibly grateful to Renee for her masterful event coordination and her commitment to fostering impactful community partnerships!

Dr. Michael Greenwood Chairs Leadership Institute

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Greenwood for his impactful service as the Chair of the 2026 Community Leadership Institute (CLI), sponsored by the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce. This prestigious program is dedicated to identifying and developing essential leadership skills in emerging regional leaders across North Central Massachusetts. Thank you, Dr. Greenwood, for your outstanding civic engagement and dedication to shaping our region's future leadership!



The Burg Blog Highlights

Engineering Technology Professor Wayne Whitfield was recently featured in *The Burg Blog* for his outstand- ing work with students in the Engineering Design & Fabrication II course. Professor Whitfield's course challenges students to master mass production theory, engineer- ing design, and fabrication systems within woodworking and residential construction. Congratulations to Profes- sor Whitfield on this well-deserved recognition for bridg- ing classroom theory with hands-on technical innovation!





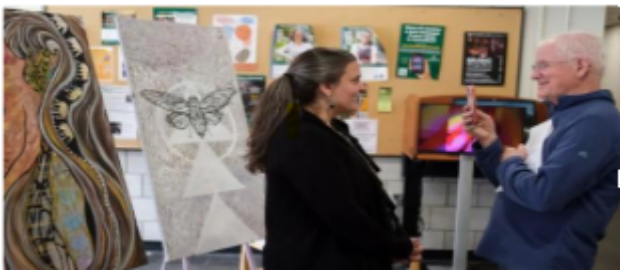
A big shoutout to Engineering Technology Professor Soumitra Basu for providing our students with premier, hands-on lab experiences! In his *Metrology* course, Professor Basu guides students through various critical shop-floor measurement techniques right inside the Metrology Lab.
The course gives students a comprehensive understanding of foundational mechanical, optical, and electrical measure- ment methods. We love seeing our faculty utilize Fitchburg State's high-tech lab spaces to bridge complex theory with real-world technical skills!



Engineering Technology Professor Ana Mesquita-Emlinger recently led her Engineering Graphics students to the campus quad for an observational hand-drawing session focused on the surrounding landscape. We love when faculty take learning beyond the classroom! This course covers traditional and modern engineering graphic methods, including drafting, CAD software, and 3D modeling. By taking students outdoors, Professor Mesquita-Emlinger highlighted the importance of real-world visualization in design and production. Thank you for your creative teaching methods!

Women in the Arts Spotlight: Jean Fisher

We are so proud to highlight the beautiful and deeply resonant work of our very own Jean Fisher (exhibiting under her artist name, *We are Rashmi*), who was featured at Fitchburg State's Women in the Arts 2026 event on March 26.



School of Business and Technology Attends Conflict Resolution Workshop



The School of Business and Technology recently joined regional professionals for the Conflict Resolution in the Workplace workshop on May 19th. Hosted by the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce and led by Karyn Rossacci of TaraVista Behavioral Health, the interactive session offered an excellent opportunity to discuss actionable strategies for enhancing team performance and navigating organizational tension. Our team looks forward to utilizing these practical, professional tools to support a highly collaborative culture on campus!

Dean Al-Odeh Leads National Accreditation Visit to Ohio Northern University

A big congratulations to Dean Dr. Mahmoud Al-Odeh on his recent service as an accreditation evaluator for the Association of Technology, Management, and Ap- plied Engineering (ATMAE). Dean Al-Odeh participated in an official site visit to Ohio Northern University, collaborating with fellow academic leaders to review the institution's programs. During the visit, he engaged with ONU's executive administration and faculty to witness their commitment to academic excellence and industry alignment. Thank you, Dean Al-Odeh, for your dedication to advancing quality standards in higher education and representing Fitch- burg State so prominently!

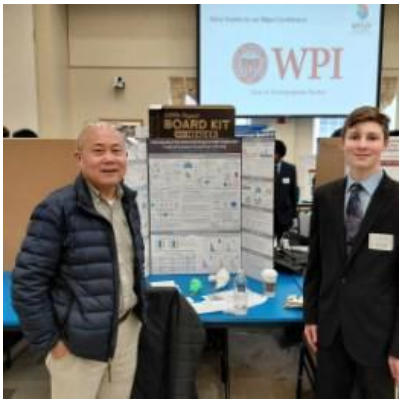


Dr. Michael Greenwood Delivers Masterclass on Workplace Ethics



We are proud to highlight Dr. Michael Greenwood, Professor and Chair of the Business Department, for delivering a high-impact professional development session on Ethics in the Workplace for the Seacoast Human Resources Association (SHRA) in New Hampshire. Thank you, Dr. Greenwood, for repre- senting Fitchburg State so brilliantly and bringing your signature business pragmatism to industry leaders across New England!

Professor Hong Yu Serves as Judge at Worcester Regional Science Fair



We love seeing our faculty engage with the next generation of innovators! Engineering Technology Professor Hong Yu recently represented Fitchburg State by serving as an official judge at the Worcester Regional Science & Engineering Fair held at WPI. Marking his third consecutive year of service at this distinguished event, Professor Yu shared that judg-ing provides both a great honor and a wonderful opportunity to receive feedback from local high schoolers while gaining unique insights into the creative thinking of Gen Z. Thank you, Professor Yu, for proudly repre-senting the Falcon community!

Professor Denise Simion Integrates AI into Project Management Course



Kudos to Professor Denise Simion for providing our students with high-impact, hands-on learning experiences! Professor Simion recently led her BSAD 3000 (Business Systems Life Cycle and Project Management) class through a successful Application Showcase and Retrospective. Under her guidance, students explored fundamental project management concepts and utilized the advanced AI coding tool Replit to design and build mobile applications from the ground up. Thank you, Professor Simion, for your outstanding efforts in equipping our future business and technology leaders with modern, practical skills!

Dr. Nirajan Mani Leads FSU's $1 Million NSF S-STEM Grant to Successful Year 1 Finish



A massive congratulations to Engineering Technology Department Chair Dr. Nirajan Mani for his outstanding leadership as the Principal Investigator (PI) on Fitchburg State's $1 million National Science Foundation (NSF) S-STEM grant! Dr. Mani recently spearheaded the NSF S-STEM Pro-gram Year 1 Wrap Up and Celebration in Presidents Hall, bringing together faculty and student mentors from across Biology, Chemistry, Computer Sci-ence, CIS, Engineering Technology, and Mathematics. Thank you, Dr. Mani, for building this incredible institutional capacity and creating a pathway for the high-tech jobs of the future!

Professor Mesquita-Emlinger Debuts *InFive* Student Podcast



Engineering Technology Professor Ana Mesquita-Emlinger has offi-cially launched her exciting new podcast initiative, InFive: Voices of Fitchburg State University Students! For the debut episode, Professor Mesquita-Emlinger sat down inside the WXPL Studio for an insightful interview with Engineering Technology major Lucas DeOliveira. Stay tuned for upcoming episodes!

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP

Industry guest speakers



The Computer Science department hosted a guest lecture featuring Pavel Zoneff, Director of Strategic Communications for the Tor Project, for an informative presentation titled "Defending Digital Rights with Tor." Special thanks to Professor Guy Karlebach for ar- ranging this high-caliber international speaker! Zoneff demystified internet privacy, contrasted Tor with traditional VPNs, and shared global case studies highlighting Tor's critical role during recent censorship events in Iran.

The Engineering Technology Department hosted Justin Aubuchon, VP of Pre-Construction and Estimating at Bond Building Construction, Inc., for a presentation titled "Challenges and Skills Required During the Pre-Construction Stage of Projects." Drawing from 30 years of industry experience—spanning steel fabrication to $200 million school and fusion reactor projects—Aubuchon shared invaluable, real-world in- sights with our students. The session concluded with a dynamic Q&A, offering a firsthand look at the technical skills, budgeting strategies, and professional certifications required to manage complex modern construction.





The Engineering Technology Department's Industry Speaker Series welcomed Hedrick Ellis, Director of Academic Technology and adjunct professor at Endicott College, for a fascinating presentation titled "Extended Reality Technology in Architecture and Construction." Professor Ellis highlighted how augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) are revolutionizing modern architecture and construction management. The event gave students and faculty an exciting, hands-on opportunity to experience AR technology firsthand using the Wanna Kicks app, as well as a full VR walkthrough of student- developed CAD projects.

The Computer Science Department hosted an engaging and pertinent presentation titled "Malware Data Science: Weaponizing Data for Defense." This session was led by Alexander Commodore, an Adjunct Professor at Fitchburg State and a Senior Soft- ware Engineer at Raytheon Technologies. The presentation examined the ways in which data science and machine learning enhance the efforts of cybersecurity professionals in addressing the continually evolving landscape of digital threats. Professor Commodore, drawing from his extensive expertise as a cybersecurity researcher and holder of over 20 industry certifications, introduced participants to key concepts such as feature engineering, machine learning classification, and Artificial Intelligence-driven defense workflows. We extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Brady Chen and the Computer Science faculty for their efforts in organizing and hosting this impactful event, which effectively bridges advanced data analyt- ics with practical security applications relevant to our academic community.





Business and Technology Career Fair

The Career Services and Advising Center recently hosted another successful Business and Technology Career Fair, opening doors for students across business, engineering technology, construction management, and IT fields. Turnout was stronger than ever, with 115 total attendees—including 107 current students spanning all class years, 3 alumni, and 5 community visitors—surpassing last year's student attendance! While employer participation saw a slight dip this year with 18 organizations present, our industry partners were incredibly impressed. They shared that our Fitchburg State students were excep- tionally prepared, professional, and confident. We extend a huge thank you to all of our employer and industry partners who attended the fair; your continued support and commitment to hiring our students is what makes these events possible!



CURRICULUM INNOVATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Successful ABET Accreditation Visit for Computer Science

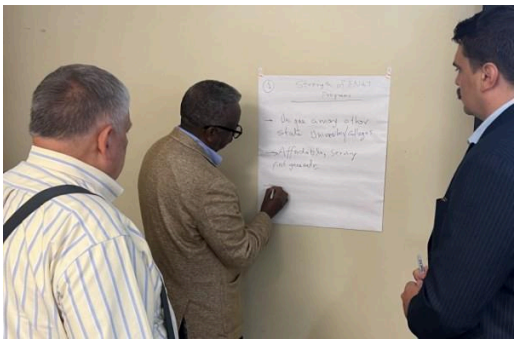
Kudos to the Computer Science department on successfully wrapping up the official ABET accreditation site visit for both the CS and CIS programs! Achieving and maintaining this prestigious accreditation ensures our curriculum remains at the forefront of tech industry standards, directly boosting our students' career readiness.





Enhancing the Business and Technology Curriculum

Driven by collaborative brainstorming sessions across each department and feedback from our industry advisory board members, the School of Business and Technology has been diligently revising its curriculum to ensure alignment with the rapidly evolving demands of the contemporary workforce.



We are pleased to announce significant advancements from these collaborations, including the creation of new Artificial Intelligence (AI) courses for both undergraduate Business Ad- ministration and Engineering Technology departments, as well as a graduate-level AI concentration tailored for the Com- puter Science program. Additionally, Business Administration developed a minor in marketing to allow students from other majors to enhance their expertise in the field. A Finance degree has been approved as a shared program between the Business Administration and Economics programs. These updates reflect our continued commitment to delivering forward-thinking, practical coursework that prepares students for future career success.

Business Administration Department Preparing for IACBE Site Visit

The Business Administration department is preparing for its upcoming IACBE accreditation site visit, which has been confirmed for December 1–2, 2026. In preparation for this December timeline, the department will submit its comprehensive self-study by August 3rd. The two-day, on-campus visit will provide an excellent opportunity for IACBE representatives to meet directly with our stu- dents, faculty, and staff while classes are in session. Thank you to Dr. Denise Simion and the entire Business Administration faculty for their hard work, leadership, and dedication in coordinating this crucial quality assurance process!

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

The 2026 Scholarship & Award Ceremony

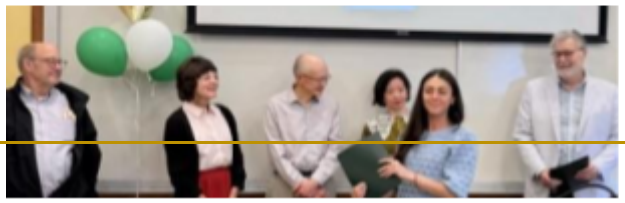
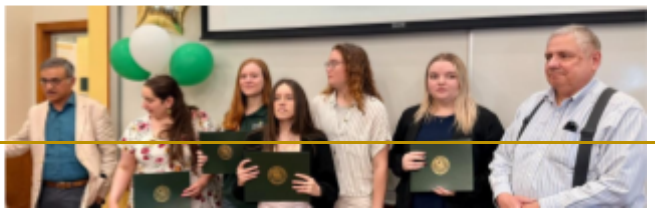


Fitchburg State University Business and Technology faculty and staff gathered to celebrate our brightest minds at the 2026 Scholarship & Award Ceremony. It was a wonderful celebra- tion of academic excellence and student achievement. We extended our deepest gratitude to our faculty, staff, and generous donors for their unwavering support of our students, and offered our heartiest congratulations to all of our incredible 2026 honorees!

Celebrating a stronger community through "Meet and Eat" Luncheon





The School of Business and Technology gathered for its inaugural "Meet and Eat" luncheon! Host- ed by the Dean, this wonderful event marked the beginning of an exciting new tradition dedicated to bringing our people closer together. This gathering is the first of many upcoming luncheons de- signed to celebrate our achievements, spark fresh collaborations, and foster a supportive, deeply connected network among all of our faculty and staff. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this community kickoff a resounding success!



