IEEE Education Week Blog Posts 2023

Get the Educational Resources You Need and Celebrate with IEEE Education Week

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the way we work and learn in a short period. Despite the best efforts of K-12 STEM educators to transform their classes into virtual environments, some students have fallen behind. According to Ed Week, half of U.S. students enrolled in Advanced Placement STEM courses before the pandemic said they could not finish their courses or take exams in biology, chemistry, and physics. Furthermore, many science and engineering college students have missed out on valuable internship and research opportunities, and they will soon enter an uncertain job market. For both young technical professionals and those who are more established in their fields, taking the time to learn new skills in this age of remote working can help their careers flourish.

Explore resources and courses designed to help working professionals and students advance. Join IEEE Education Week (4-8 April 2023), a weeklong celebration of educational opportunities provided by the world's largest technical professional association and its many organizational units, societies, and councils.

What Does IEEE Education Week Offer?

Through local and regional activities, webinars, online courses, scholarships, and more, this weeklong series of events offers IEEE members and the global community a wealth of educational resources. Participants of IEEE Education Week will get a chance to earn points towards an IEEE Education Week Digital Badge.

Check out the IEEE Education Week video to learn more.

Who Can Join and Participate?

Are you a technical professional looking to develop new skills? A university student in need of networking and training? A STEM educator who wants to expand your students' knowledge? IEEE Education Week is a great opportunity to explore the educational resources you need most.

IEEE offers pre-university STEM, university, and continuing professional education resources for students, engineers, and technical professionals all over the globe. This weeklong celebration will highlight resources for:

- Engineers and professionals working in technical fields,
- University students and faculty members,
- Anyone looking for pre-university STEM education resources and experiences to encourage the next generation of engineers and technologists

You do not need to be an IEEE member to participate. However, IEEE members receive free and discounted access to many of these events and resources, so be sure to check them out. Not an IEEE member? Now is the perfect time to join to take advantage of membership benefits. Click here to learn more.

Are You Part of an IEEE-affiliated Group and Want to Get Involved?

If you are part of an IEEE-affiliated group that would like to get involved by offering educational events, resources, and/or special educational offers on the IEEE Education Week website, we would love to feature them! Learn how to get involved.

Resources

Sparks, Sarah D. (12 April 2021). Science Teaching and Learning Found to Fall Off in Pandemic. Ed Week.

Parry, Wynne. (10 January 2021). Pandemic stress: The toll it's taking on students. Chemical & Engineering News (C&EN).

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Blog Post #3

Advance Your Career with Resources Available during IEEE Education Week

As pandemic-related lockdowns ease, companies are ramping up hiring, and many are looking for candidates who have skills in emerging technologies. Are you preparing accordingly to advance your career? HR Drive reported that employers posted 360,065 tech positions in October, which is the highest monthly total since September 2019. In addition, a third of those positions were related to emerging tech, according to a CompTIA review of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

The move to hire employees with emerging tech skills— including artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML) automation, robotics, and the Internet of Things (IoT)— is being driven by digital transformation, which has picked up in the wake of the pandemic.

"It's more common to have a software development job or a data scientist job that requires some level of competency with machine learning," Tim Herbert, EVP for research and market intelligence at CompTIA, told HR Drive.

You don't necessarily need a degree in AI to land a job in this field. According to India Today, there are six skills employers generally look for when hiring professionals for AI and ML-related positions:

1. Computer programming, including computer architecture, optimization algorithms, data structures, trees, and graphs.
2. Statistics and probability: These skills from a key component of AI and ML, and they're necessary to understand data science.
3. Data modeling: This skill is used "extensively in AI to handle pattern recognition and datasets classification."
4. Knowledge of Unix tools: Because most AI processing happens in Linux-based environments, AI professionals are usually required to understand Unix tools.
5. Efficiency in distributed computing: Most AI jobs require programmers to handle large amounts of data. One machine cannot deal with so much data, so AI professionals need to understand distributed computing in order to distribute it equally across systems.
6. Design and software: Because the final product will be developed into software, AI professionals need to have a fundamental understanding of software design.

Skills Training Programs Key To Employee Job Satisfaction

As employers look to make new hires, they have also struggled to retain tech employees. Known as "The Great Resignation," many of these employees left their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic. While some link this exodus to pay, the opposite may actually be true.

According to Raconteur, managers may pay too much attention to salary and not enough to job satisfaction. In an interview with the publication, Sandeep Sakharkar, CIO of global contract logistics company GXO Logistics, said there are various ways companies can improve employee job satisfaction, including implementing a more authentic culture, recognizing and rewarding staff, and providing structured learning and development programs that help employees reach their career goals.

"Attrition is a reality for everyone and it's impossible not to have it," Sakharkar told Raconteur. "So to succeed today, you really need to have a structured, intentional focus on all of these four areas, and also track your programmes to see how they're performing against objectives."

Want to Learn New Digital Skills? Join IEEE Education Week (2-8 April 2023)

IEEE Education Week (2-8 April 2023) is a weeklong celebration of continuing education opportunities provided by the world's largest technical professional association and its many organizational units, societies, and councils. Through local and regional activities, webinars, online courses, scholarships, and more, this event offers IEEE members and the global community a wealth of educational resources. Participants will get a chance to earn points towards an IEEE Education Week Digital Badge. The celebration will feature both in-person and virtual events. Check out the IEEE Education Week video to learn more.

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How [Insert Society/IEEE entity name] is Involved

[Insert how your Society and/or IEEE entity is/will be involved with IEEE Education Week. You can list out any events, resources and/or discounts you may be featuring.]

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Blog Post #4

Five In-Demand Technical Skills That Can Advance Your Career – Check out IEEE Education Week for the Resources That Can Help You

The year 2022 proved to be a hot job market for those with the right technical skills. With thousands of organizations digitizing their businesses in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for software developers skyrocketed. However, supply is not meeting demand, as a recent poll from CodinGame and CoderPad found that almost half of employers are having trouble finding candidates that meet their needs.

Demand for DevOps and Artificial Intelligence is Soaring

Many organizations plan to significantly expand their ranks with workers who understand DevOps and artificial intelligence (AI). As ZDNet reported, the poll found that more than a third of surveyed employers hope to hire over 50 developers, while 15% hope to hire more than 200. Their most-wanted skills include DevOps and AI/machine learning. They are also looking for full-stack and back-end engineers, as well as programmers who know JavaScript, Java, and Python.

While those are the top three programming languages sought by employers, the survey also found that more organizations are looking to hire programmers versed in niche programming languages, such as Clojure and Scala, but few developers know these languages. Other in-demand languages include Go, often used in DevOps, and Swift, the programming language used to develop apps for Apple iOS devices.

Additional In-Demand Skills

DevOps and AI are far from the only in-demand technical skills employers seek. According to Enterprisers Projects, IT skills that employers are prioritizing this year include:

Product management:

As many CEOs transition to agile development, they are looking for candidates with a mix of technology, business, and leadership skills that bring "high impact technology products to market, whether internal or external" to the organization, Martha Heller, CEO of Heller Search Associates, told the publication.

Cloud and container technology:

As many organizations are being forced to expedite their transition to the cloud during the pandemic, the demand for workers with cloud skills has risen dramatically. According to the 2021 Open Source Jobs Report from the Linux Foundation, cloud-native skills are now in greater demand than all other surveyed technical skills— with almost half of hiring managers looking to recruit candidates with cloud and container technology prowess.

Leading change:

IT leaders and managers may know how to manage people effectively, but not necessarily how to effectively manage change. In the new year, organizations will be looking to hire IT leaders who understand and have experience with change dynamics, along with change leadership frameworks and tools. Desired knowledge also includes how to plan for and maintain a change roadmap, as well as experience in risk management, human challenges, and successful change initiatives.

Cyber security:

With cyber crime rising significantly, organizations are becoming increasingly conscious of the need to hire technical professionals who know how to build a strong organization-wide cybersecurity culture.

With so many employers looking for candidates with these skills, many tech workers are finding themselves in a highly competitive job market. One way to make yourself more attractive to hiring managers is to boost your skills through continuing education.

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