

Industry sponsored research – a two way impact on quality of education.

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Center for Advanced Friction Studies operated as a university – industry venture cosponsored by NSF and state of Illinois. The two main endeavors of this activity is i) education and ii) research for industries involved. Altogether, sixteen abroad and US industrial partners are currently members of this consortium and technology transfer is realized through developing research program of interest, which is incorporated in teaching activities at university.

Six courses were developed in electronic form and some of them were provided to industry. 42 graduate students and 52 undergraduate students were involved in education through research activities of CAFS and several of them are employed in friction industries now. Sponsoring the program by industries not only provides topics and sponsorship for theses, but also helps in job market orientation and important is the capability of students to be able to clearly and unambiguously present technical information. A very important element of this collaboration is also an impact on industry. CAFS SIU helps in developing and provides continuing education opportunities for employees of industrial consortia. Advancements in science and technology require further networking activities and interdisciplinary collaboration, which effectively applies the sources of hardware and financing.

The above mentioned issues will be discussed with respect to new technological opportunities related to distance learning and multidisciplinary collaboration between individual universities and industries.