

IIT Alumni Canada (IITAC) Professional Development & Mentoring Webinar April 25th. 2020

We are pleased to provide an update on this recent event. The content was based on feedback from mentees and mentors over the first year of the formal IITAC mentoring program and targeted to support the "new to Canada" segment as well as tenured IIT'ians in Canada. Initially planned as a face to face session to educate the IIT community and create greater interaction, we decided to alter the format to a webinar to ensure continued community engagement and support despite these unsettling times. The event was extremely successful with a record attendance and with very positive feedback from our community on their learnings and interest in leveraging the IITAC Mentoring program.

Day Contents:

IITAC Board Members (Ashraf/Vivek/Gova) provided an overview of IFI activities over the year specifically around the Mentoring Program. We had four key industry speakers from Banking, Analytics, Venture Capital and Start-up Incubators who provided updates on their sector, and opportunities for engineering talent . In addition, we had 2 IITAC Mentors providing unique actionable insights on Resume writing and Networking. Some of the program mentees who have been successfully placed in Canadian corporations shared their experience. Lead Mentors conducted interactive sessions with smaller groups of people on specific industry areas and leadership skills. Vishwas and all board members had a chance of thanking all the audience for their participation.

Participation:

We had a record number of 136 IIT'ians/ friends of IIT attending the webinar. For the most popular interactive break out mentor/ mentee sessions we had up to 20 attendees

Feedback & Conclusions:

We ran multiple online polls to get information on our attendees' profile, challenges they have faced professionally, and their feedback on the usefulness of the program. Based on the polls, key insights/feedback we received is summarized below:

- Top challenges in job search picked by respondents:
 - Reaching out to established professionals (23%);
 - Reaching Interviews (19%)
 - Being challenged on "Canadian" experience (15%).
- All of these areas were addressed in the sessions, and we will continue to support our community in these areas
- Webinar Topics usefulness feedback:
 - 83% found the topics very valuable
- Interest in signing up for the IITAC Mentorship Program:
 - 85% interested in signing up (Conducted in 1 interactive session)

Additional Resources Attached:

- Webinar Agenda (<https://iitalumnicanada.wildapricot.org/page-1715105>)
- Webinar Presentations (<https://iitalumnicanada.wildapricot.org/page-999479>)
- Video Recordings (tbd)