The Benefits of University/Industry Partnerships

John Gant, *University of Louisville, Director Industry Partnerships*

Abstract

This talk discusses the benefits of University/Industry partnerships for businesses, academia, students, and economic development. Universities and employers are working together to reshape education for the workplace. Employers are increasingly using the partnerships not only to tap into the vast resources of universities, but also to develop their future workforce. Students are benefitting because they have more career opportunities and are getting hands-on experience in the workplace, and are getting paid by the employer, the employer benefits from the innovative solutions the students are creating for real-world issues facing the employer, Universities benefit by providing more career paths for students, thus increasing enrollment, and the community benefits because many students that may have left the region are able to find employment locally, thus reducing the "brain drain".

Bio

John Gant is the director of industry partnerships at the University of Louisville. Gant connects industry with campus resources for problem solving, research and development and innovation.

Gant has more than 25 years' experience in manufacturing management and compliance in the chemical and primary metals industries. He has served in a variety of leadership roles, including as a plant manager and general manager for several large industrial companies in steel and aluminum related products. Before UofL, he most recently was director of economic development for Louisville Forward, the city of Louisville's economic development engine.

Gant is a Louisville native, and holds a bachelor's degree in geology and a master's in environmental science, both from Miami University in Ohio.