March 16, 2011

To: YOUR ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

From: YOUR NAME

RE: Request for your participation in the IT Faculty-Industry Symposium

I hope this message finds you well as spring slowly arrives in the great State of Minnesota!

I am writing to see if you might have the interest and time to join me, along with other MnSCU faculty and Minnesota IT leaders in an innovative, online symposium that was recently confirmed by [Advance IT Minnesota](https://www.advanceitmn.org) for the afternoon of Thursday, April 7, (2:00-4:45 p.m.)

We’re taking on a big idea at the symposium: how do we help students acquire the nontechnical skills that we know have become so important to career success? This “skills gap” has been a regular topic of our discussions and seems to be growing in importance based on feedback from other employers and IT media sources.

A [symposium brochure](http://education.advanceitmn.org/sites/education.advanceitmn.org/files/Brochure%20for%20Symposium.pdf) and a more [detailed version of the model](http://education.advanceitmn.org/sites/education.advanceitmn.org/files/IT%20Faculty_Industry%20Symposium.pdf) we plan to discuss are now available online. If you are able to join us, please register at the [IT Industry Leaders registration page](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/industryRSVP). Once registered, you will receive a pre-symposium survey on or about March 25, and links to the online meeting site a few days before the event.

We will also be looking for industry leader involvement on the follow up phase of this initiative, helping to provide additional suggestions for specific learning strategies and resources. There will be more about this as part of the symposium.

Thanks for your past support and I hope you will be able to join us on April 7.