Panel presentation
Preparing tomorrow's workforce for the Big Data economy
Panel Chair: Dr. Rashmi Jain, Montclair State University

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Beyond academic training, Big Data scientists and engineers with data empathy and business acumen are sought after by companies.

To find your sweet spot, stretch your skills in
- academic disciplines that generate Big Data (e.g., business, medicine, education, social sciences)
- company experience (company size and place in its industry’s ecosystem)
- work role (basic R&D, applied R&D, technology transfer, product, consulting services and even sales).

Universities with highly interdisciplinary academic programs and creative externship programs will produce a more competitively trained workforce.
Experiment
Scientific training is the essential ingredient for Big Data projects. Even more potent is to mix it with business-minded Design Thinking (cf. Stanford's d.school).

1500 science PhDs in the NY metro area applied for inaugural fellowships at two incubators
- The Data Incubator
- Insight Data Science
to train this summer for Big Data jobs in Silicon Alley.

Fewer than 10% will be accepted. More programs designed for immersion and mentoring are key to leveraging academia’s most valuable output: well-trained science PhDs. **Universities should study these models and grow programs with industry partners including startups.**
The computing age of mobile, cloud, MPP and distributed computing requires a new way of seeing market opportunities.

Silicon Alley's leading VC observes that
• organizational hierarchies are flattening
• services are specializing and unbundling, and
• "you are a node in the network".
(Fred Wilson, Union Square Ventures, talk at LeWeb 2013)

**Universities are the perfect venue for teaching tomorrow's workforce about our emerging networked society at the intersection of disciplines, such as law (privacy, regulation), government and education (public policy, civic engagement, private partnership), medicine, business, journalism and the arts (digital media) (cf. Smart Cities Symposium 2014, Fordham Law).**
We are at the dawn of foundational economic and social change driven by the paradigm shift in technology.

Scientists and engineers now more than ever have a duty to collaborate.

Stretch, experiment, unbundle. **Those willing to explore will lead the way.**