We present the framework of the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSIT) Competency-Based Capstone Course. This course is designed to respond to calls from the industry to provide graduates with real-world experience, as well as from students and graduates to better prepare them for the workforce. Eight IT competency areas will be implemented into the three key components of the BSIT CBE capstone course — comprehensive outcome assessments, IT projects, and capstone reports. These capstone components complement and reinforce each other to ensure that students who complete the course have achieved the BSIT program outcomes and demonstrated competencies that are required for success in the information technology field.

ABSTRACT

Faculty Program Director, School of Business & Technology | CHERRYL MCPHILLIPS (cmcphillips@excelsior.edu), Academic Program Coordinator, School of Business & Technology

Only 59% of their 613 surveyed college students think they are prepared to apply knowledge and skills to the real world. 58% (and 64%) of the 400 surveyed employers feel that colleges and universities must make improvements to ensure that graduates gain the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in entry-level positions (and to advance) at their company:

Employers are more likely to consider a job candidate who has participated in capstone projects or internships where they can apply their skills and knowledge to solve real-world problems.

COLLEGES ARE NOT PREPARING THEIR GRADUATES WELL ENOUGH TO ENTER THE WORKFORCE

HART RESEARCH ASSOCIATES©

- 49% of the 503 hiring managers looking for STEM graduates think that recent graduates are not well prepared to solve problems.

- While 67% of the 1,000 surveyed college students indicated that colleges should provide them with more professional experience to help prepare them for the workforce, only 35% of them think colleges effectively prepare them for a job.

Editorial Note: This framework is based on the BSIT CBE Capstone Course developed at the Excelsior College in New York.

HART RESEARCH ASSOCIATES©

- Only 59% of their 613 surveyed college students think they are prepared to apply knowledge and skills to the real world.

- 58% (and 64%) of the 400 surveyed employers feel that colleges and universities must make improvements to ensure that graduates gain the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in entry-level positions (and to advance) at their company.

Employers are more likely to consider a job candidate who has participated in capstone projects or internships where they can apply their skills and knowledge to solve real-world problems.

REFERENCES