



The UMKC School of Computing and Engineering (SCE) is proud to announce the SCE Awards for Alumni and Friends Inaugural Class. The SCE Awards for Alumni and Friends recognizes outstanding achievements of SCE Alumni and exemplary support for the SCE. The SCE Awards for Alumni and Friends class of 2017 will be recognized at a reception on April 20. In addition to the four awards given by SCE, honorary alumni status will be formally bestowed to a retired faculty member.

Congratulations to the SCE Awards for Alumni and Friends, Class of 2017:

**Aashish Chandra (MSEE '11), School of Computing and Engineering Young Alumni Award**

Aashish Chandra is the Global Head of Technology, responsible for all technology efforts and COEs globally, for Retail, CPG & TTH verticals at TATA Consultancy Services [TCS: IN], an \$80+ Billion company. He provides thought leadership to strategic clients with current focus on Simplification and Digital Transformation.

Aashish has held variety of entrepreneurship and leadership roles throughout his career and has been the youngest in executive leadership teams. Previously, he led Application Modernization for Sears Holdings [NASDAQ: SHLD] as a Vice President, co-founded a Big Data Startup company, MetaScale and headed the IT organization for a \$5 Billion California based grocer, Save Mart Supermarkets.

Aashish has been featured in several articles in reputed industry publications and bestowed with various honors and awards for his achievements (2016 Bay Area CIO of the Year; 2016 Silicon Valley 40 Under 40 Award; 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award, VIT India; 2012 IT Innovation and Excellence Award, IIT Delhi (India); 2010 SN's Technology Excellence Award, FMI Show; and 2009 InfoWorld Top 100 Projects Award; to name a few). He has also been an active speaker at international scale CXO events and visiting Professor at Indian School of Business (ISB, Hyderabad). He is advisor / board member to several high tech startups and venture capitalist firms in Silicon Valley, California.

It is for these reasons and many more that we are proud to award Aashish Chandra the 2017 School of Computing and Engineering Young Alumni Award.

**Kiran Chelluri (MSCS '01), School of Computing and Engineering Supporter Award**

Professionally, after graduating from UMKC, Kiran worked at Spring before founding Chelsoft Solutions Co. Chelsoft Solutions Co. was recognized as the 7<sup>th</sup> fastest growing company in the KC Area in Ingram's "The 2016 Corporate Report 100: The KC Area's 100 Fastest-Growing Companies." Chelsoft Solutions was also ranked #5 of the top Kansas Companies by Inc. in 2016.

Kiran has become a key supporter of the School of Computing and Engineering. In 2015 he joined the SCE Alumni Association Board. He is active on the board and is an advocate for international students and making sure the board thinks of ways to connect with these students. He is always thinking of creative ways to get in front of these students. Kiran also keeps fundraising for the SCE Alumni Association in the forefront when coming up with ideas. He does not limit his ideas to events where only students plan on attending. Kiran works to think of ways to get in front of people who might have no direct tie to the school but might be interested in supporting the school and its students.

In addition to his board work, Kiran has also traveled with SCE to India for the past two years. He is key in helping to set up visits with universities and companies in India. His support during the

planning of the trip and whilst in India is extremely valuable. His support has helped SCE to improve its quality, effectiveness and efficiency each year he has been involved. Kiran's expertise has led to successful events for alumni and friends in both Hyderabad and Jaipur. With Kiran's help this year, the Dean was able to get in front of student groups at four universities, leading to SCE receiving an additional 318 prospective student contacts through these visits.

It is for these reasons and many more that we are proud to award Kiran Chelluri the 2017 School of Computing and Engineering Supporter Award.

#### DST Systems, Inc., School of Computing and Engineering Company of the Year

While DST has long been engaged with the SCE, our relationship is stronger than ever.

During the past year alone, DST's John Vaughn has assumed a leadership role in working with SCE to build the infrastructure for a lasting and mutually beneficial relationship between DST and the SCE. He has become an engaged member on SCE's Executive Council, visited with the leadership team about how the company could "plug in" in multiple ways with SCE students, and has made key connections between DST employees and SCE staff.

DST was the first company to make a seven-figure written gift commitment for the SCE's planned laboratory building and limited renovations to our existing home in Robert H. Flarsheim Science and Technology Hall. DST recognized the need for SCE to house student services in one space and a portion of their gift was to be used to create the DST Student Services Center in Flarsheim Hall. This space will be housed on the third floor of Flarsheim and give SCE great visibility to all who enter the building.

In addition to supporting SCE, DST is involved in supporting STEM Initiatives in KC and has worked with the KC STEM Alliance.

It is for these reasons, and many more, that we are proud to announce DST Systems Inc. as the School of Computing and Engineering Company of the Year.

#### KC STEM Alliance, STEM Outreach Partner of the Year

The KC STEM Alliance is a key partner for the School of Computing and Engineering in developing interest in the STEM field in the Kansas City region.

The KC STEM Alliance was founded in 2011 to connect the many STEM education and workforce initiatives in our community. They manage Project Lead the Way (PLTW) in Kansas City. Project Lead the Way provides teachers with the training resources and support they need to engage students in real-world learning. Under the KC STEM Alliance's leadership, PLTW has grown to over 40,000 K-12 students and is available in 40 KC-area schools.

The KC STEM Alliance invites collaboration through programs such as ecosySTEM KC and Girls in Tech KC and increases access to STEM skills and participation through its Kansas City Engineering Zone (KC EZ), Girls in STEM Initiative and KC HealthTracks.

Additionally, the KC STEM Alliance has worked with SCE and KCP&L to put on the Get into Energy Camp for middle school students. They are also open to and encouraging SCE to use the KC-EZ as a home for other summer camps.

The letters included in this packet further highlight the partnership between SCE and the KC STEM Alliance and the exciting programs and initiatives that the KC STEM Alliance is working on.



There are many exciting days ahead for the partnership between SCE and the KC STEM Alliance.

David Skitek, University of Missouri – Kansas City, School of Computing and Engineering Honorary Alumnus

The UMKC Alumni Association can bestow “Honorary Member” status to non-alumni who have rendered outstanding service to the Association or the University. Selection of such honorary members is made by the Alumni Governing Board.

Dr. David Skitek officially retired in 2002 after 26 years of teaching, but remained involved with the school beyond his retirement. He held a position on the alumni board as a representative to the school and was instrumental in helping to keep the board going through some very lean years. Dr. Skitek was also the driving force behind the annual SCE Alumni Association Golf Tournament. This tournament was the sole fundraiser for the SCE Alumni Association Scholarship. Through his support the tournament grew and his fundraising efforts have helped the endowment reach over \$50,000.

For these contributions, we are proud to announce that the UMKC Alumni Association has bestowed “Honorary Member” status to Dr. Skitek.