

# **EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN THE INTRODUCTORY MIS CLASS: INTERVIEWS WITH IT PROFESSIONALS**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Students enter the introductory MIS class having heard all the hype regarding the IT profession, but often knowing little of the realities. In an effort to have general business students gain a deeper understanding of the IT profession and the IT professional, the authors developed an interview exercise that serves many purposes. Students receive instruction on conducting interviews and the research project in which they are participating is described. Then each student selects an appropriate interview candidate and researches the candidate's organization. Each student conducts an in-depth interview, including both a structured and an unstructured interview. Each student submits a paper describing the organization and reporting on interview results. Finally, each student makes a formal presentation to the class. This article details the methodology for this pedagogical exercise and reports results obtained after over one hundred interviews. Benefits achieved are substantial from a pedagogical, research, and community-relations perspective.*