

Knowledge Alliance

IEEE Awards Mentor-Mentee Program

What is Knowledge Alliance?

Knowledge Alliance is a mentor-mentee program that takes place at the in-person IEEE VIC Summit and Honors Ceremony event between career professionals and undergraduate students. It pairs individuals together in establishing a mentoring partnership for guidance in multiple areas such as career, education, leadership, and volunteering. Participation in the program is open to all attendees who register to attend the event.

When mentees join Knowledge Alliance, they will have the opportunity to make lasting connections with high-level engineering professionals that will provide a host of possibilities. This program serves as a way for attendees to experience the Summit by personally connecting with someone from within their field and making a professional alliance. During registration, we encourage you to sign up to be a mentor or a mentee and the pairing will be based on your professional interests.

We are looking for **mentors** and **mentees** who would be willing to connect **before, during, and after** the Summit.



pictured l-r: At the 2023 IEEE VIC Summit and Honors Ceremony, Dave Jakubowski, IEEE Member, met with his mentee, Brigette Hacia, UC San Diego School of Engineering student.

Why join Knowledge Alliance?



Pictures l-r: Mentee Solaine Zhao, student at UCLA connecting with her mentor, Irena Atov, Microsoft, at the 2023 VIC Summit

This program helps to facilitate an opportunity for one-on-one discussions about opportunities within the industry, current challenges, and career growth through sharing personal stories and advice to motivate mentees to continue to innovate and advance technology to benefit humanity. This unique opportunity to meet at the IEEE VIC Summit and Honors Ceremony allows for an exchange between different generations and technical disciplines that will ultimately help to develop and encourage future generations of talent.

Mentorship effectively supports the personal and professional growth of young engineers and provides an engaging and rewarding experience for both the mentor and mentee. We highly recommend that all mentees consider what they would like to discuss when connecting with their assigned mentor.

"The Knowledge Alliance program is invaluable for students or young professionals seeking early career support. My mentor gave me technical and career advice and introduced me to other IEEE programs geared toward those in my specific discipline. He is someone who I expect to be a lifelong mentor and friend" – Conrad Hellwege, UF IEEE Student Branch President, Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering, University of Florida, Mentee at the 2023 VIC Summit

"There's no greater feeling as a mentor than to use your experience to help others achieve success themselves. When they accomplish something they didn't think they could do, and they are so happy and confident, and they say that they couldn't have done it without your help, that's what it is all about. This is a much greater feeling than receiving awards and recognition yourself. Mentoring is an excellent opportunity to give back. Remember that many helped you in your career." – John McDonald, IEEE Life Fellow, Mentor at the 2023 VIC Summit

"I was able to connect by email and text with my mentee, an engineering student at UC San Diego, a few weeks before the VIC Summit, so it was easy and fun to meet in person both at the Welcome Celebration Reception and at the VIC Summit. We have a plan for a monthly phone/video call and possibly an in-person meeting when I'm out near her city. It is a lot of fun interacting with college students and learning about their goals and plans for their careers and futures. I look forward to continuing my mentor program." – Dave Jakubowski, IEEE Member, SYNTHO BEATS, Mentor at the 2023 VIC Summit



How do I connect?

We do all the work for you! After indicating your preference as a mentor or mentee and indicating your technical field, both mentor and mentee will be introduced to each other via email approximately one week prior to the event.

It is important that a meeting point and time be arranged between the parties prior to arriving at the IEEE VIC Summit event, otherwise, it may be difficult to connect.

It is up to the mentor and mentee to continue communication after the VIC Summit. The most successful mentoring relationships require keeping a strong connection before and after the VIC Summit as well.



Pictured l-r: Mentee Conrad Hellwege, University of Florida, with his mentor, Brian Page, VisionTech Communications, at the 2023 VIC Summit

When can I meet my mentor/mentee ?

Connecting at the event can include getting a coffee or a meal together, attending a session or exhibits together, meeting up at the IEEE VIC Summit luncheon, networking breaks, or the pre-event reception. The hotel has many open spaces where mentors and mentees can also meet.

What kind of commitment should I expect?

Each participant should be committed to giving time and effort to develop their connection to find this program beneficial, but the mentor/mentee can determine the length of time to spend together at the IEEE VIC Summit.



*Photo from 2023 IEEE VIC Summit and Honors Ceremony.
University Students join the event to learn, network, and connect with mentors.*

Benefits of being a Mentee:

- Overall professional development: Connect with a mentor about career opportunities, interviewing tips, teaching strategies, and overall long-term career planning.
- Educational advice: Receive advice on entering a graduate program or continuing education programs.
- Expand your professional network: Your mentor can guide you on enhancing your brand and connect you to professionals in their networks.
- Research guidance: Mentors can provide feedback on current research, identify possible collaborators, and review research strategies/statements/questions.



Sponsors too can join as a mentor or mentee, as seen here at the 2023 VIC Summit



"There's no greater feeling as a mentor than to use your experience to help others achieve success themselves." – John McDonald, GE Grid Solutions, mentor, with his mentee, Max Petlick, University of Florida, at the 2023 VIC Summit

Benefits of being a Mentor:

- Provide inspiration and insight to those getting started in their career!
- Mentoring is a powerful way to give back and make a meaningful contribution to students, undergraduates, and graduates in engineering and technology fields.
- It is a great way to build your professional network and can enhance your own coaching, leadership, and management skills.
- Meeting others with the same interests but different viewpoints can provide thought-provoking discussions and spark unexpected ideas.
- Provides an opportunity to share knowledge and impart life experiences to aspiring engineers and those pursuing any of the fields of interest of IEEE.

A successful alliance takes time, energy, and open communication – and what better way to start than at the IEEE VIC Summit!

Register for Knowledge Alliance during the 2024 IEEE VIC Summit registration process.

**Registration will open in early 2024*

If you have any questions about the program, please email awards@ieee.org.



Pictured l-r: Mike North, Actor/Scientist with his mentee, Kunal Kewalramani at the 2019 IEEE VIC Summit



"The Mentor/Mentee program at the IEEE VIC Summit provided me with an opportunity to meet one of IEEE's newest members. We need to continue these activities to assist in the development of our future leaders." – Joseph Lillie, 2022 IEEE Haradan Pratt Award Recipient pictured on left with mentee Timothy Buchmann