

Dear Potential Sponsors,

Each year, the School of Engineering + Technology at WCU launches a two-semester capstone project course for our undergraduate seniors. Capstone projects allow them to integrate engineering training with project management skills. Interdisciplinary student teams drawn from all of our programs (electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical and computer engineering technology and engineering technology) tackle open-ended, real-world problems for our industry partners. In addition to the course instructor, each team has a faculty mentor to help guide the project. Ideally, a capstone project should have the following characteristics:

- Open-ended requiring evaluation of multiple solutions
- Complex and challenging requiring innovative problem-solving approaches
- Sufficient scope for team of 3-5 students (we can help with this).

I invite you, as an industry partner, to evaluate your development needs and nominate topics that would provide value to you and a learning experience for our students. To be a capstone project sponsor, I request the following:

- Team sponsorship fee of \$3,000, plus reimbursement for materials unique to your project
- Willingness to provide a project mentor from your company
- Participation in periodic design reviews as the customer (at your site or WCU).

If the idea of sponsoring a capstone project interests you, please contact me at [pgardner@wcu.edu](mailto:pgardner@wcu.edu) or **828-227-2435**. I will be happy to walk you through the simple process. I'm also happy to visit your site to brainstorm topics with you. Please indicate your interest as soon as possible. I normally solidify topics by mid-July.

Quick outline for topic proposals:

- Company name and point of contact
- Title of project
- Problem statement (one paragraph describing the problem and what is needed)
- List of known requirements or constraints (size, weight, power, cost, performance specifications, operating conditions, etc.)
- Milestones and deliverables

Sincerely,  
Patrick Gardner, Ph.D.  
Professor, School of Engineering + Technology  
Director, The Rapid Center