

Professions Board
ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2005 - June 30, 2005

Submitted by Steve Bourne

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Members of the Board

Steve Bourne (Chair), Terry Coatta (MSB), Mike MacFaden, Ben Fried, James Wright, Carol Hernandez, Benjamin Mako Hill, Kevin Scott, Noreen Wu

1.2 Standing Committees

None

1.3 Ad Hoc Committees

None

1.4 Volunteer development

This is a new board with reasonably well balanced demographics.

2. Executive Summary

The Professions Board was created by Council action in Spring of 2005. The board has been recruited and held its first meeting in June. At this meeting a roadmap was created outlining areas the board believes we should focus our energy. By the end of CY2005 we expect to have two of these areas mapped out in greater detail so that we can test market the proposals. First products and services are expected by mid CY2006.

3. Status and plans

First meeting was held Jun 24th

- Understand market and customer
- Review surveys and focus groups
- Review San Francisco task force conclusions
- Discussions were wide-ranging and very productive.
- Agreement reached on areas to focus on

Roadmap established in following areas

- Networks and Communities
- Best Practices
- Marketing / Promotion

–Career

–Ethics

The first two areas will be worked on first.

What follows is a summary for each of the roadmap areas.

Networking and Communities

Provide support for the creation and ongoing development of communities and Chapters including infrastructure for reviewing/ assessing/ rating events, courses, books, etc. We should look at existing communities (SIGs, Experts Exchange, Software Development Forum) to identify opportunities for co-operation. The strategy is to provide infrastructure not content and allow communities to form that will generate, aggregate, evaluate, and discuss content themselves.

Best Practices

Help answer practical questions about technologies/ approaches/ tools/ processes by creating a communications framework in which IT professionals can discuss qualified solutions to problems. Publish what works and what does not from respected qualified sources and document lessons learned and make accessible.

Marketing the Profession and the ACM

ACM should be a recognized source of information about what the computing profession is doing for society including what is the impact of the IT profession. Promote career image; identify target customer segments; and identify appropriate products and services.

Career

Topics include: training and skills development; making career transitions, e.g. from student to practicing professional; skill development for non-technical areas such as business operations.

Ethics and Professional Standards

These standards are changing. We need to help IT professionals understand what the standards are and how they affect their work. Increasingly important are the issues of privacy and security (throughout all aspects of IT).