

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 IEEE VIC Summit and Honors Ceremony, Haishan Liu, Kathryn Hammar with Moi Tin Chew

Why join Knowledge Alliance?



“What a Great Experience” - Rhonda Schennum, IEEE Senior Member pictured on left with mentee, Achinthyia Poduval, IEEE Student Branch at UCLA

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 IEEE VIC Summit was a great opportunity to network with world-renowned researchers in my field of expertise; wireless communications and networking. I had a very constructive mentorship experience with my mentee over the phone several times before the IEEE VIC Summit and during the Summit. I am still mentoring him as he needs some advice from me on some of the projects he is working on at his job. He found this mentorship program to be very beneficial, especially given the fact that my expertise lies in line with his research work. I was able to guide him (and still am) on the research directions to pursue to accomplish his projects.” – Hovannes Kulhandjian, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, California State University, Fresno

“It is always exciting to meet with people just starting their careers, full of energy and ideas. I had a great time with my mentee. He’s a talented young man pursuing studies in bioengineering. One thing I did not anticipate was that his presence made me bolder about going up to total strangers to introduce him, so I personally met more people because of the program. The experience made the VIC Summit even better for me, and I think it was a great experience for John too.” – Jim Hollenhorst, Agilent Technologies



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.

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.



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

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 2019 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.



Students from the local area gather at the 2022 IEEE VIC Summit and Honors Ceremony to connect to mentors

Benefits of being a Mentor:



“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

- 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 IEEE VIC Summit registration process.
NOTE: You must register for this program by 13 April to guarantee participation!**

**Registration on or after 13 April is subject to availability.*

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