

NIWeek 2012 Keynote Quote Sheet

Day 3—Presented by Ray Almgren

Thursday, August 9, 2012

"The problem is that somewhere along the way between dropping our kids off at kindergarten and sending them to college, we manage to extinguish their interest in science and engineering. How does this happen? There is a fundamental disconnect between what engineers do in the real world and how we train students in the classroom."

Ray Almgren, Vice President, Core Platforms Product Marketing, National Instruments

"Every time a student abandons engineering in favor of a 'more interesting and relevant major,' we risk losing the researcher who will someday cure cancer, the scientist who will solve the clean water crisis, or the engineer who may one day discover a truly affordable and sustainable energy source."

Ray Almgren, Vice President, Core Platforms Product Marketing, National Instruments

"By engaging students with hands-on, relevant projects early in the curriculum and matching it with a very important theory that they can learn either online or in the classroom, we are keeping the students in the program and equipping them with the resume-ready skills they need to conquer the challenges of tomorrow."

Ray Almgren, Vice President, Core Platforms Product Marketing, National Instruments

"Hands-on practical work is really important in building the bridge between teaching and research, and the lack of hands-on practical work is one of the reasons The University of Manchester was ranked 34 out of 36 schools in the UK's national student survey in 2009. At this point, we knew we had to change something and began to integrate NI hardware and software into our classrooms and project-based learning. The impact of these changes was almost immediate, and the excellent feedback from the students was seen in the same national student survey in 2010 and 2011. The change in student satisfaction was awesome, and the school is now ranked No. 1 in the UK."

Dr. Danielle George, Senior Lecturer, School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, The University of Manchester

"By using LabVIEW, USRPs, NI myDAQ, and their own mini-project, students have been able to automate a vital set of measurements which will shape the design of wireless sensor networks for instrumenting gas turbine engines. The productivity of the team was fantastic. As a matter of fact, one of the team members will be taking the work forward as a Rolls-Royce sponsored research student at Manchester."

Ehsan Najafzadeh, Electronic Engineering Student, The University of Manchester



11500 North Mopac • Austin, TX 78759-3504 USA
Tel: (800) 433 3488 • Fax: (800) 683 9300
info@ni.com • ni.com