

FINAL ♦ WORDS

What is the greatest benefit you have derived by taking part in research in which CIT and industry have collaborated?

Hemant Sikaria
Masters, Electrical and
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For my senior design project, I led a team of students in creating a gesture-recognition glove for the deaf. We called it the “HandTalk Glove” because of its ability to convert gestures into the spoken word.

For our innovative design, extreme portability and usability of the glove, we received press on the international level and were featured on the front page of popular Web sites like engadget.com and gizmodo.com. It was amazing to think that a school project had the potential to impact and inspire people all over the world. My cousin, who is a freshman at another college, told me that he saw our HandTalk Glove in a faculty presentation on exemplary student research projects at other schools. The opportunity to do fantastic research has helped bring out the best in me.

Student

Sridhar Seetharaman
Co-Director of the Center for
Iron and Steel Research
Associate Professor, Materials
Science and Engineering



It has helped me and my graduate students to formulate hypotheses and objectives that address fundamental questions that are also relevant for industrial applications such as improving process control and product quality. This has helped us to improve the quality of Ph.D. theses and it has shortened the time that it takes for students to focus on a topic.

Faculty

Wayne Balta
Vice President, Corporate
Environmental Affairs
and Product Safety
IBM Corporation
(BS CEE, 1982)



In the mid-1990s, IBM supported new research regarding “green design” with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) at Carnegie Mellon. At that time, it helped us further understand how important it is to consider material selection, reuse and eventual recycling during product design. Since then, these issues have clearly grown in importance. Today, it’s been rewarding to see how CEE leveraged IBM’s grant to further grow its research capabilities in this arena. Subsequent work regarding electronic waste management and product lifecycle analysis has capably informed policy debates and business practices. Industry, CEE, and the environment have all benefitted. I call it a win-win-win.

Alumni