



TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY COMMITTEE MEETING ON JANUARY 28, 2013
FROM:	HARVEY FILGER DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE INVESTMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS
SUBJECT:	D.A.P.S. TROPHY, IBM-WESTERN UNIVERSITY INDUSTRY PROBLEM SOLVING WORKSHOP

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

BACKGROUND

The week of February 19th, IBM and Western University will be hosting an industry problem solving workshop. Local businesses will present problems to teams of Western University students and faculty from the departments of Applied Math, Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Math and Statistical & Actuarial Science. Teams will work with industry experts and IBM data analytic tools to provide potential solutions to the proposed business problems. The team that presents the most creative idea will win the D.A.P.S. Trophy.

Manager and initiator of the event, Western University's Maggie Weller notes: "The objective of the D.A.P.S Trophy is to connect industries with faculty, postdocs and students who have expertise in industrial case-studies." (Appendix A). There is no cost to participate in the workshop and "all industry problem solutions will include details of government (provincial and federal) incentives for hiring students and funding opportunities for the research projects." (Appendix A)

The City of London is supporting and participating in the problem solving workshop. Mayor Fontana will bring wishes from the City of London to the opening remarks of the event. A \$1,500.00 financial sponsorship has been provided. Suitable problems originating in the Engineering Service Area and the Finance Service Area will be presented to workshop teams.

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY:	REVIEWED AND RECOMMENDED BY:
MAT DALEY SPECIALIST, CORPORATE INVESTMENTS & PARTNERSHIPS	HARVEY FILGER DIRECTOR, CORPORATE INVESTMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

cc: Cathy Dziedzic, Specialist, Investments & Partnerships



Appendix A:



D.A.P.S. Trophy
IBM-Western University Industry Problem Solving Workshop

Local businesses have problems.

Smart kids from Western team up to solve them using IBM data analytic tools.

IBM and Western University are hosting an *Industry Problem Brainstorming Workshop* with a data analytics focus at Western University during the week of Feb 19th 2013. This four day event is modeled on the very successful format of the *Fields-MITACS Industrial Problem-Solving Workshops*. Participants will include undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty from the departments of Applied Math, Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Math and Statistical & Actuarial Science, all competing to win the inaugural DAPS trophy, as well as experts from industry.

On the first day, the industrial participants will present their problem statements. The Western contingent will divide into teams and each team will be assigned a problem. The teams spend the remainder of the week collaborating on ways to solve the problems and present their findings on the final day of the workshop.

Companies are invited to pose a challenging problem for the teams to solve using their experience, knowledge and the data analytics tools and expertise provided by IBM. It does not cost anything to participate and all industry problem solutions will include details of government incentives for hiring students and funding opportunities for the research projects.



DAPS Trophy: IBM- Western University Industry Problem Solving Workshop.

Objectives:

The objective of the DAPS Trophy is to connect industries with faculty, postdocs and students who have expertise in industrial case-studies. This interaction is fostered in the specific context of a problem-solving session over three days. The case-studies in question have a significant IT, mathematical or statistical content.

The interaction between industry and academia has many potential benefits for both. Academics learn about interesting potential research problems and find application for their existing tools. Industries get access to some of the most experienced computer scientists and mathematical problem-solvers in the country.

Format:

The DAPS Trophy will be held over four days. Participants will include between 36-50 academic experts and experts from industry. On the first day, the industrial sponsors will present their problem statements. The academic experts will divide into teams with each team assigned to a problem. The teams spend the next 48 hours collaborating on solutions to their problem, and present their solution on the final day of the workshop.

Deliverables:

At the end of the week, the academic experts make a presentation consisting of the problem restatement and their solution. The team with the most creative and outside the box idea wins the coveted DAPS Trophy. Each team prepares a detailed report for the industry problem sponsor, including a breakdown of what is required to solve their problem, i.e. time line, equipment and expertise required, cost and funding from government opportunities available.

Should any company wish to go ahead with a Western University research partnership to solve their problem the Faculty of Science will be able to provide assistance.

DAPS Trophy Agenda:

<u>Day One</u>	
<i>Continental Breakfast</i>	
Opening Remarks	Mayor of London & Dean of Science
Problem Presentations	Industry Participants
<i>Lunch</i>	
Group Discussions	Teams
Daily Summaries	Team Spokesperson
<u>Day Two</u>	
<i>Continental Breakfast</i>	
Group Discussions	Teams



<i>Lunch</i>	
Group Discussions	Teams
Daily Summaries	Team Spokesperson
<u>Day Three</u>	
Group Discussions	Teams
<i>Lunch</i>	
Group Discussions	Teams
Daily Summaries	Team Spokesperson
<u>Day Four</u>	
Continental Breakfast	Funding Agencies Presentations
Solution Presentations	Teams
<i>Lunch</i>	
Results, Awards Ceremony & Closing remarks	Dean of Science