CAPSTONE NEWSLETTER

Capstone planning is heating up despite the opposite happening outside! I've been engaging with many of you regarding projects for the upcoming spring semester. This newsletter will provide a recap of the current state of planning and provide some feedback on last year's projects.

KEY UPCOMING DATES

DECEMBER 23
Completion target for the project definition survey.

JANUARY 6
Submission of a project Power-Point or pitch presentation.

PLANNING UPDATE

First of all, thank you to all of you who have dutifully worked through the initial planning, project draft, and project finalization phases that I set up for the fall planning. Most of the 2023 projects are defined and ready to go.

Class enrollment is up 25% from last year, so there is a significant opportunity to bring in new sponsors this year. While we're close to having the required number of projects, I would be open to one or two more sponsors to round out the class. Please reach out to me if you would like to discuss getting into the program this year.

RECAP OF 2022

There are three goals that we focus on in Capstone - meeting customer expectations, growing our skills, and improving the reputation of NDSU in the community. I asked each project team to provide feedback on these goals at the end of the semester last year. As you can see from the results shown below, we were successful in all three areas from the student's perspective.

I also asked the sponsors if the project met their expectations and got similar results (note some companies had multiple respondents).

Here are a few feedback comments from the sponsors:

> "I think the team did an excellent job identifying options and analyzing each option. The final presentation and deliverables were beyond what I would have expected and I am very happy with the team's work." (research oriented project)

> "I believe the difficulties involved with analyzing a dataset of our size caught the students by surprise. They eventually worked through that and were able to make progress. We are preparing to roll out there solution later this month." (product enhancement project)

> "I really appreciate all the effort that the students put into the project. They achieved a product that fulfills our requirements and beyond." (NDSU ag related project)

> "Team worked efficiently to complete the project, they were able to get much of the stretch goal of building a front end done as well. All students were very respectful and worked to understand fully the needs of the system." (internal operations project)

Successful projects depend on a well scoped project, strong sponsor mentor engagement, and a capable project team. The success we have in Capstone is highly dependent on the skills and commitment that you bring to the program. Thank you!!

LOOKING AHEAD

Class will start on January 10th and the students will learn about the projects on January 12th. The projects will kick off the following week after the student bidding.

I'm looking forward to getting started on the 2023 projects! Please drop me a note at david.froslie@ndsu.edu if you have any questions.
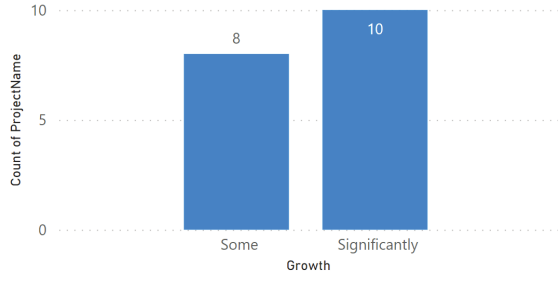
Happy holidays to each of you and your families!
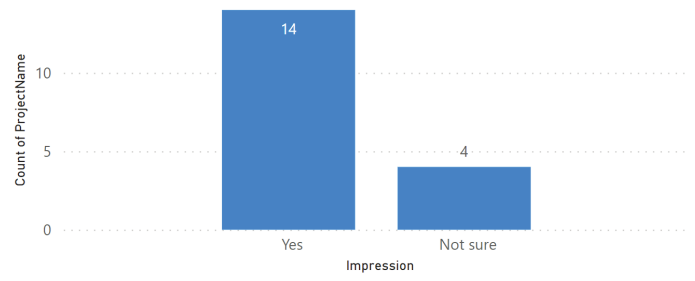
David

Did you meet customer expectations?
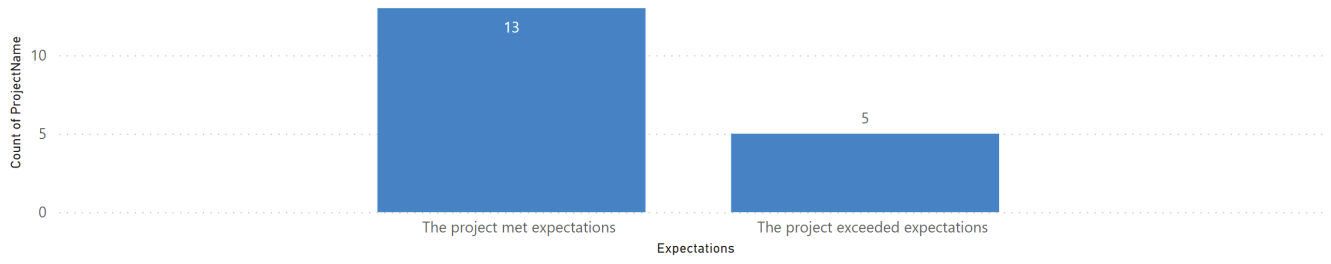
Did you grow your skills?

Did the project improve the reputation of NDSU?

Overall Feedback