2014 CiSoft Virtual Academy

The 2014 CiSoft Academy, a one day workshop that provides select Chevron interns from universities all over the country with the opportunity to gain insight into Smart Oilfield Technologies (SOFT), was held on July 8, 2014. The Academy was conducted virtually to allow interns from various Chevron business units to interact and communicate in a genuine collaborative environment.

The CiSoft Academy is a fantastic way for participating interns to further their problem solving abilities as well as an opportunity to improve their public speaking and presentation skills. This past summer a total of 44 interns from Chevron offices in Bakersfield, Covington, and Lafayette participated in the Academy.

After a welcome from Greta Lydecker, Vice President of Chevron's San Joaquin Valley Business Unit, and an overview of SOFT concepts by USC Professor, Dr. Iraj Ershaghi, the interns heard from top USC researchers and *i-field* specialists within the Chevron organization. Topics covered included big data, integrated optimization, fuzzy logic, and 3D modeling for oilfield operations.

Interns were then split into teams and were given competition questions based on information from the lectures they heard earlier in the day. Each team was given only a few hours to work together and come up with a comprehensive and innovative solution to their given case study.

The panel of judges included Brian Thigpen, Cynthia Murphy, and Anand Panangadan.

Several remote sites participate in the CiSoft Academy

Out of the several teams competing, this year's first place went to Team E in Bakersfield! Teams F and G from Covington placed second and third.

A very heartfelt thank you is warranted for all who coordinated behind the scenes: Sam Chow, Heidi Hoffower, Rebecca Ennis, Danny Woodall, Brian Held, Everyl-Ann Archibald, Denise Leal, Michael Norse, David Lee, Tia Lafitte, Glenda Juka, Sean Curet, Randy Noble, and Colby Rozell.

Iraj Ershaghi, Juli Legat, and Brian Thigpen tally votes