Introduction: Students for a Smarter Planet

Students for a Smarter Planet seeks to be a global coalition of locally-based student-led organizations that are helping to lead the way toward building a smarter planet. Through collaboration with other student groups, businesses, non-profits, academia, and governments, we seek to educate those on campus about the important social, environmental, and technological issues facing our planet and to develop and implement innovative solutions in order to have a real & meaningful impact on our communities and the world around us.

Our mission: To provide students with the opportunity to interact with the professional world to inspire a next generation of leaders with conscience who will work towards creating a smarter planet in their community and beyond. Students for a Smarter Planet is an international higher education student organization for all levels: undergraduate, graduate and law school. It is the first of its kind, global 'industry-student' endeavor focused on the theme of creating a smarter planet. It is led and managed by students with guidance and support from IBM. Students will have the opportunity to connect with each other over the internet and in person. Logical groupings of smarter planet themes are used to facilitate connections among people with similar areas of interest. At universities students will work to make their local communities smarter through community service and partnerships. Chapters will create and attend smarter planet related conferences and events with each other. Using the internet students are able to network with one another and industry professionals from around the world.

History

In April of 2009 IBM hosted a Smarter Planet University Jam. Over 2000 students from more-than 200 colleges and universities around the world participated in the three day online event. The top twenty participants were asked to sit on the IBM Student Advisory Council. One of the most striking results of the jam was that a majority of people polled would like to join a student organization focused on sustainability but that none were offered at their school. The council brainstormed on this concept and from this brainstorming the idea for Students for a Smarter Planet began to take shape.