

Riipen Update

Published 6/17/2019 by [Ashley Ribbel](#)

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in the **June 2019 issue**

Seneca's partnership with **Riipen** continues to develop. The Riipen platform

- facilitates in-class experiential learning projects with industry partners,
- provides company-sponsored challenges to students, and
- creates opportunities for companies to focus recruitment efforts through job interview pre-screening.

Implementation of Riipen was made possible through the Government of Ontario's Career Ready Fund.

To date, 59 projects have been completed in 55 courses with 15 industry partners and 339 students gaining an in-class, real-world project experience. Companies of various sizes have participated, including Freedom 55, North York General Hospital, and Lupus Ontario, plus various Seneca departments.

Nine company-sponsored challenges were held with 182 students participating to win job interviews or prizes, including

- Four job interview pre-screening opportunities through Career Development with companies including BMO and Stantec
- Seneca's first-ever Study Break Challenge with IBM where four students won a tour of IBM's software lab and the opportunity to meet with influential IBMers
- The Pitch Challenge with Brand Momentum Inc. at the School of Marketing's annual Make it Happen graduate event where prizes included a coaching session from Brand Momentum's Vice President of Marketing Solutions, a meet-and-greet with the company's marketing directors, and resume feedback from the marketing directors.

Study Break Challenge with IBM





Seneca Winners on their tour of the IBM Software Lab: Yoosuk (Tony) Sim (BSD) – fourth from left, Robert Dittrich (BSD) – sixth from left, Kam Man Chan (BSD) – eighth from left, Khirmer Dia (CTY) – far right.

Pitch Challenge with Brand Momentum Inc.



David Grisim, Brand Momentum's Vice President of Marketing Solutions, with winners Melissa Brizuela (BMT) and Vinh Nhi Dang (BAM).

The development of projects for the summer term is underway and outreach has begun to IBM and other companies to sponsor June's Study Break Challenge, potentially targeting students in the School of ICT and Seneca Business.

As the most active school on the Riipen portal, Seneca continues to receive requests each term from companies eager to partner with classes on projects. **We are always looking for faculty who may be interested in engaging with these opportunities.** We are seeing a demand for projects in the areas of social media, marketing and communications, project management, UX and website design, and financial and business analysis. We have created an in-house support system and process to guide faculty through every step of the experience. Support is provided through close collaboration between the Teaching & Learning Centre, Academic Learning Services, and Career Development.

- The Teaching & Learning Centre – help design or modify assignments and rubrics; define learning outcomes and rubrics; embed core literacies; incorporate Riipen into hybrid and online course design.
- Academic Learning Services – onboard faculty and students to the platform; assist with publishing the assignment to be appealing to companies; help find matches; guide through the process; repeat assignments from term to term.
- Career Development – invite and onboard Seneca employers; assist companies with

drafting and scaling projects that apply to in-class assignments; help find matches; offer pre-screening challenges with employers prior to interview days and job fairs; provide drop-in assistance for students.

Our innovative approach to in-house support, process, and the use of the Riipen platform was the subject of our recent presentation at the University of Guelph's Perspectives on Experiential Learning Conference and the Canadian Association of Career Educators and Employers' (CACEE) National Conference on Influencers and Disrupters: Innovating the Post-secondary Career Transition.

If you're interested in finding out more or wanting to investigate how to adapt an assignment to a Riipen project, email Riipen@senecacollege.ca. Anyone is welcome to browse [Seneca's portal on Riipen](#) to see the great projects that are happening. There is a link to Riipen from the Employees page on My.Seneca.

View the [June 2019 issue of the Academic Newsletter](#).

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tags : academic-learning-services, june-2019