



Graduate Seminar (EEL 6936)
Department of Electrical Engineering
http://ee.eng.usf.edu/Grad_Seminar

Mr. Dennis N. Blankenship, Sr. Director Engineering
Cisco Networking and Security Group, Research Triangle Park, NC, USA

Thursday, October 12, 2017, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
College of Engineering (ENB) Room 109

High Tech Leadership & Career Advancement

Abstract

In the fast paced, complex global world we now compete in, managing one's personal brand and individual leadership is critical to career advancement. Engineers are trained to solve complex problems, and success in academics mostly rests on individual ability. The work place introduces new complexities beyond the class room where success depends as much on an engineer's individual leadership, teamwork, and collaboration as the specific technical problem they are tasked to complete. Complexity and change is constant in the global world we now compete in and we all need to embrace it throughout our career journey.

This seminar will discuss some of the key principles in leadership and career advancement I have found worked well as I moved from a software development engineer to a high-tech executive in Silicon Valley, CA and Research Triangle Park, NC over the last 30 years in starting off developing software that launched Space Shuttles at Kennedy Space Center in FL, to my first leadership role in a startup, and on to executive leadership at Ericsson and Cisco Systems. One's career is a journey and being prepared to take advantage of unexpected opportunities can lead to life changing experiences and results. We all have to own our career development; no one will do that for us. This is an opportunity to share my experiences in going from small town America to the pinnacle of engineering in Silicon Valley.



Biography

As a Senior Engineering Director in the Networking and Security Business Group, Mr. Blankenship is responsible for leading software development teams in RTP, NC and San Jose, CA for the Cisco's Cloud Services, Integrated Services, and Aggregation Services Router platforms, Enterprise Network Compute System platform, and data plane technologies common platform software. His career spans 30 years as a software developer and leader serving in several executive leadership positions in Cisco Systems and Ericsson Corporation where he has been responsible for engineering organizations of 100+ to over 1000 engineers across multiple geographies around the world. Dennis received his Bachelor's degree in Computer Technology from the University of South Florida, holds multiple patents, and currently serves on the USF College of Engineering Dean's advisory board.