Fostering the Innovative and Entrepreneurial Mindset in Engineering Education: Lessons Learned in Bridging the Gap between Industry and Academia

Dinner Keynote Speaker: Friday, 4/8, 8:00-8:30 pm, Room: SEH B1167

Speech Summary:

The Innovative and Entrepreneurial Mindset is becoming increasingly important for successful engineering careers. Critical to developing this mindset are opportunities for students to connect with industry to understand real world problems and solutions of employers and customers. The speaker will discuss lessons learned bridging this gap over the last 20 years as an investor, academic startup supporter, and NSF I-Corps Node Co-PI.

James Chung
Associate Vice President at George Washington University

Jim Chung is the Associate Vice President for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at George Washington University, and a Co-Principal Investigator for the NSF Innovation Corps Node in Washington DC (DC-I-Corps). He was previously the Director of the Mtech VentureAccelerator and the Founding Director of the Chesapeake Bay Seed Capital Fund at the University of Maryland. Prior to Mtech, he served as a Director for New Business Development at the Corporate Executive Board. He was also Vice President at Cherington Capital (now Intervale Capital), a middle market private equity firm in the oilfield equipment and services industry. Jim started his private sector career as an early stage venture capital investor, most recently at incTANK Ventures, where he was the managing director. Some previous and current investments include Agamatrix, Nexaweb, Ulterra, Zymetis (now Aemetis), FlexEl, FiscalNote, and TravelBank. Before becoming an investor, Jim was an academic researcher studying how business, government, and academia work together to create new innovations in high technology industries. He has been a researcher at MIT, Harvard, University of Tokyo (Fulbright Fellow), ETRI (NSF EAPSI Fellow), STEPI (Korea), and KAIST. He was named in 2015 by Washingtonian Magazine as one of the Top 100 Tech Titans in DC and by Hot Topics as one of the Top 100 Entrepreneurship Professors worldwide. Jim received his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from Stanford University and was a Ph.D. candidate at MIT.