



The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

Final Copy of Case Study

Status:

Laureate

Year:

2013

Organization Name:

Solstice Mobile

Organization URL:

<http://www.solstice-mobile.com/>

Project Name:

JobPrep

Please select the category in which you are submitting your entry:

Philanthropy

Please provide an overview of the nominated project. Describe the problem it was intended to solve, the technology or approach used, how it was innovative and any technical or other challenges that had to be overcome for successful implementation and adoption. (In 300 words or less.)

In conjunction with Chicago-based non-profit i.c. stars, the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Southern Illinois University, Solstice Mobile helped develop Job Prep. Job Prep is a mobile app for job seekers in the state of Illinois that has features to assist applicants through all phases of the job search. The app includes a "Prepare" section, where users can get tips and watch videos on resume writing, interview skills and training programs, a job search engine, videos on financial management, a portal to file for unemployment, and a "Connect" section, which teaches users how to create personal brands through social media and network with potential employers. Solstice Mobile acted as professional and mobile mentors for their i.c. stars

interns, giving them hands-on experience working on a team of mobile developers with one common goal: to deliver a product that will, ultimately, improve the lives of all of its end users. Solstice is committed to giving back to its Chicago community, and its partnership with i.c. stars has allowed them to further this mission. i.c. stars is a mentorship program that prepares low-income young adults in Chicago for careers in IT, and matches them with local tech companies for hands-on internships. In the fall of 2012, two i.c. stars interns began working at Solstice Mobile, their main project being the development of JobPrep.

When was this project implemented or last updated? (Please specify month and year.) Has it incorporated new technologies and/or other innovations since its initial deployment? (In 300 words or less.)

The initial phase of the application was completed in 10/12. Phase 2 is currently underway and should be released to the app stores in February. The new version of the app will include features such as job, service location, and training program searches, an integration with LinkedIn, and an event calendar.

Is implementation of the project complete? If no, please describe the project's phases and which phase the project is now in. (In 300 words or less.)

Initial implementation (submission to the major app stores) was completed in October of 2012.

Please provide at least one example of how the technology project has benefited a specific individual or organization. Feel free to include personal quotes from individuals who have directly benefited from the work. (In 300 words or less.)

The app has specifically benefitted the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) along with Southern Illinois University, providing both entities with a new resource to offer its constituents. The app itself aids all unemployed and recently laid-off workers in the state.

Would this project be considered an innovation, a best practice or other notable advancement that could be adopted by or tailored for other organizations and uses? If yes, please describe that here. (In 300 words or less.)

The app is a best practice, and an example that all states could follow in helping to reduce the effect of unemployment on society by more quickly enabling those workers to connect and find new jobs. It's also providing greater accessibility to information that workers without their own personal computers at home might not



otherwise be able to find. While there are big-name, very broad job search apps on the market, JobPrep is tailored for a specific audience, and provides a much more comprehensive experience because of that. The technology goes beyond a mere search engine, giving users concrete professional development resources that assist them through the stages of finding and starting a new career.

If there are any other details that the judges should know about this project, please note them here. (In 300 words or less.)

This is a custom application for both iOS and Android smartphones where Solstice partnered with the non-profit i.c. stars to give two of their interns an opportunity to work on a real project in the technology field. Since the first phase of the application was deployed, the two i.c. stars interns were hired as full-time mobile developers at Solstice.