IACIS 2025 Computer Educator Award

Dr. Alan R. Peslak

Dr. Alan R. Peslak is a distinguished scholar and educator with over two decades of academic service at Penn State, following a successful 25-year private sector career in finance and IT leadership, including Vice President of Finance for Akzo Nobel. Currently serving as Professor in Charge of the Information Technology degree program as well as IST Discipline Coordinator, he has played a pivotal role in developing and evolving Penn State's curriculum across 19 Commonwealth Campuses, with a focus on hands-on and theoretical foundations in IT. He has recently co-chaired a university-wide committee to create a new Information Technology degree at Penn State focusing on broad-based IT skills and designed for entry-level positions, especially in small to medium-sized organizations. Dr. Peslak has authored 131 peer-reviewed publications, including 87 journal articles, amassing over 2,200 citations and achieving an i10-index of 50. His research explores the societal impact of information technology, social media, and artificial intelligence. He is recognized internationally, having received the 2020 Ben Bauman Award for Excellence from IACIS and the 2012–2013 IST Statewide Faculty Member of the Year award at Penn State. A leader in global collaboration, Dr. Peslak has spearheaded digital international exchanges through the Experiential Digital Global Exchange (EDGE) program, partnering with institutions such as the University of Auckland (New Zealand) and Seifullin Agrotech University (Kazakhstan) to connect students globally via technology-driven learning. He has served on numerous editorial boards and as a reviewer for top-tier journals like the *Journal of Business Ethics, Journal of Computer Information Systems* and *Communications of the ACM*. His leadership in the academic community is highlighted by his presidency of the Educational Special Interest Group of the Association for Information Technology Professionals and induction as an EDSIG Fellow. With teaching experience in over a dozen IT-related courses and active participation in curriculum design, Dr. Peslak is a nationally recognized authority in information systems education. His dedication to academic excellence, global engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration continues to shape the future of IT education at Penn State and beyond.