Creating synergy between academia and industry

Overview

The Boeing Center for Supply Chain Innovation (BCSCI) at Washington University in St. Louis is a world-class research center in global supply chain management, supply chain finance & risk management, and operational excellence. Well regarded for its thought leadership in supply chain management, technology-driven innovation, and process optimization, BCSCI creates and disseminates knowledge on cutting-edge supply chain and operational excellence practices.

Through collaborative work with leading industrial and service firms via corporate partnerships, the Boeing Center helps organizations optimize their global enterprise processes, devise effective risk management approaches, and develop innovative business models and supply chain solutions to better match their supply of products and services with global market needs.

The Boeing Center creates value through collaborative research in technology, information, and supply chain management. The focus is on the proprietary challenges member companies face. BCSCI undertakes a number of custom projects annually for members. Teams of PhD and other Olin Business School graduate students tackle these projects, working closely with Olin faculty to find solutions that build a competitive advantage through strategic supply chain management and technology-based process re-engineering. The Boeing Center also sponsors seminars, conferences, and other programs to address critical issues and bring to light the latest thinking in the information, technology, and supply chain fields.

Our goal is to help your organization optimize its global enterprise processes, align the incentives of all partners across your chain, and develop sourcing, production, logistics and distribution strategies matching your product and market needs, while continuously looking at technology and market trends that require your chain to change and adapt to new circumstances.

BCSCI is regarded as a leading supply chain management research and best practices institute. It has accomplished this status through prolific knowledge creation via rigorous research on best supply chain practices, and effective dissemination of such knowledge and practices to the academic, executive, and practitioner communities.
Projects

Faculty-guided mini-consulting projects and internships

Take advantage of the analytic capabilities of the Boeing Center community — and gain five times the value — with a three- to four-month practicum project. You work with a team of specially selected students, led by a faculty advisor, on your high-stakes supply chain or operations challenges. Alternatively, you may choose a faculty-supervised internship project, which allows access to onsite, full-time interns dedicated solely to your project.

Projects represent a wide range of organizations and industries

Through the Boeing Center, we tackle critical technology, information, and supply chain issues, working to find innovative solutions to operational and management challenges. It's also a great way for you to preview Olin talent. More than 25 percent of the companies that sponsor projects extend an internship or full-time job offer to the students who have created a lasting impact on their organization.

Project of the Year Symposium

The annual BCSCI Symposium features the top corporate mini-consulting projects executed via our Center during the academic year. The students who make up the project teams present the projects and compete on multiple dimensions of performance for three different awards. The teams also compete for a share of the $10,500 award pool and induction into the Boeing Center Projects Hall of Fame.

BCSCI by the numbers

12
Full-time faculty

12
Doctoral students

18
Experiential projects and internships

60
M.S. in Supply Chain Management students

20
MBA students with supply chain specialization

25
M.S. in Business Analytics (Supply Chain Analytics track) students (projected)

99
Experiential student opportunities this year
Membership

The Boeing Center serves as a catalyst for supply chain innovation and global enterprise optimization. Our mission is to foster mutually beneficial interactions between industry and academia. We help your organization build competitive advantage through strategic supply chain management and technology-based process reengineering. And you deepen our understanding of effective business operations, and the specific needs of your company, through shared projects, research and best practices.

The Boeing Center provides practical tools that enhance your supply chain agility, efficiency and sustainability. We also sponsor seminars, industry conferences, research conferences and other programs that address critical issues and bring you the latest thinking in the information, technology and supply chain fields.

Engaging with the Boeing Center creates a high-return investment for all, from industry practitioners and the academic community to current and prospective Olin Business School students. Our mission is to provide value and disseminate information to companies, academics, and students.

Custom Projects

You collaborate with a specially-formed team of Olin students, led by an Olin faculty adviser, on a project that tackles your organization’s supply chain challenges. Deliverables can include a consulting report, research or white paper; presentations to your senior managers and executives; the development of assessment tools; and software support for your business models and applications. Or, if you prefer, we also facilitate customized, faculty-led internships.

Conferences, Seminars & Events

Each year, the Boeing Center hosts seminars, conferences, board meetings, and other programs to address critical issues and enable you to learn about emerging trends in supply chain management research and practice, and to listen to and interact with academic and industry experts.

Applied Research

You can commission research that directly addresses your management problems. Our professors conduct research, identify strengths and opportunities, present their results and recommendations, and help implement new strategies. In addition, Boeing Center members have access to, and generate ideas for, faculty white papers, working papers and publication articles.
Global academic community

Through the Boeing Center, supply chain and operations faculty and doctoral students from around the world present their research papers (which address some of the hottest topics in the field), receive feedback on their work, and network with a global academic community. Their interactions advance thinking and practice in the field, with a tremendous ripple effect that spreads out to their respective institutions, colleagues, and corporate partners.

Supply Chain Finance


Pharmaceutical & Healthcare Supply Chains


Risk Management


Global Supply Chain Benchmark Study

Our most recent undertaking was a large study of leading manufacturers in a wide range of industries, focused on discovering the driving factors behind their global production and sourcing decisions (i.e., whether or not they chose to offshore, onshore or reshore).

This research was a collaborative effort of The Boeing Center with business schools from some of the top universities in the world (including Pennsylvania, Stanford, and Georgetown). We have maintained an active collaborative network with the top supply chain management research centers, and our research agenda is aligned with them on the most timely research issues of our field.

Our hope is that this research will give firms insight into the current trends in the global supply chain environment and enable them to make informed choices about their own supply chains and global sourcing decisions. The full article can be found in Manufacturing & Service Operations Management Vol. 20, No. 3, pp. 389-402.
Meet the Team

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