

PhD students working in industry as a part of their PhD studies



Joseph Huang, PhD
Executive Director of Strategic
Research Initiatives
Stanford Computer Science

Industry

Industry members gain:

- Insight into the latest research
- Network to the student's principal investigator
- Network to the rest of the department
- Reputation amongst other students



Students

Students gain:

- Knowledge about how industry works
 - Quarterly pressure versus academic year
 - Working in teams versus solo effort
 - Profit as a motivation versus pure discovery
- Network with industry members



Tenured and tenure track professors at R1 universities

Professors gain:

- Ideas about what is driving industry
- Pathways for their ideas to have application in the world
- Jobs for their PhD students
- Rotation for themselves, permanent jobs in industry, or ideas to create a start up to solve industry needs

Some additional thoughts

- Since students are employees of the companies during this time, everything developed is owned by the company
- Some of new knowledge will influence the rest of their PhD

