



Senior Design Marketplace Executive Summary

The Senior Design project is considered to be the capstone of the undergraduate engineering education at Stevens. With such a high level of importance and value, this should be a project that allows for the best ideas to be shared and the most ideal teams to be formed. For this year's Senior Design Day, a team of Engineering Management students have been working on putting together a Senior D Marketplace to accomplish these goals in a more efficient manner.

The Senior D Marketplace is a website that allows Stevens students and faculty to communicate ideas in an online environment. The website allows students and faculty to post Senior Design project ideas with detailed descriptions of the projects and of the qualifications prospective team members should have. These ideas are highlighted on the site through a system of "likes," based on popularity as well as on the idea's stage of development. Members of this marketplace can comment on the ideas. Once an advisor approves an idea, it becomes a potential Senior Design project and the team selection process begins. Students from the specified majors can request to be a part of the team. Once an advisor picks the team and green-lights the Senior Design project, the team can begin working on it right away.

The Senior D Marketplace improves on a number of flaws in the existing process. Currently, seniors engage in a chaotic process of discussing ideas, building teams, and starting their work during the first few weeks of their senior year. The Senior D Marketplace allows this process to begin during the student's junior year, in the Design VI course, which gives students more time to develop rich ideas and to get an early start. One of the core values of Senior Design is its emphasis on interdisciplinary projects. However, the interdisciplinary approach is lacking in most projects and is really only evident in large, department-driven projects. The Senior D Marketplace makes it simple for students to communicate across majors and form the necessary connections to bring together multidisciplinary teams.

While other systems for communicating and spreading ideas exist online, this is one that is specific for the Stevens Senior Design community. It includes all the features that are necessary to connect the Stevens population and take advantage of thousands of potential ideas. What really sets this project apart from the old process is the centralized theme that allows all potential participants to come together and work with an interface that is simple to use. This project has societal impact on the Stevens community as a whole. While it directly affects Stevens seniors, it also has a much wider reach. It allows more faculty members to be involved with generating ideas and gives potential students and underclassmen a place to see what four years of a Stevens education can generate.