J. F. WILLIAMS, SFU

On the hows, wheres and whys of Industrial Mathematics Education

In this talk I will discuss several different models for industrial math education as practiced around the world, each with its own aims and outcomes. Industrial math is a way to convince students, their parents and national employers of the utility of a mathematical education. In this country there is a feeling amongst too many people that mathematicians are overly abstract and that a math degree is only marginally more useful than one in philosophy.

As mathematicians we need to do scientific outreach in order to gain experience, develop contacts and also foster a certain relationship with industry as a whole about the power of mathematics and mathematical training. I will describe several ways in which faculty can be involved and the benefits for both the discipline and our future students.