Media Release for Office of Career Services

February 2 and 3 2017

The Office of Career Services at Albany State University has kicked off the 2017 “*Alums in Action Initiative* *in Partnership for Student Career Success*” February 2-3, where students had the opportunity to network, connect and interview with representatives from IMB. Career Services Director Tracy Simmons Williams, spearheaded the event in order to provide career focused informational sessions along with networking opportunities that directly support student placements for internships and employment. Special guests included and ASU alumni Norman Walton, ’79 and Charlene Frazier,’92, as well as Dr. Andy Rindos, III of IMB and Mr. John Thompson, IBM retiree and President of Mobile Connections and Dr. Cameron Seay, professor of Computer Science at NC A&T and LEAD-IT Principal Investigator. Seay, Rindos and Thompson discussed a new grant initiative for students interested in working in the computer technology field.

 The two-day visit also included, a presentation from Bill Baldwin IBM business partner Total Systems Services (TSYS) of Columbus, GA, Director of Operations, and his immediate staff Bob Bias and Corey Clarke on trends in technology and what TSYS looks like for new hires in the technology field. The IBM TSYS team conducted on-site interviews with ten students, with majors in Computer Science and Business Information Systems. Two students were selected to move forward to the next round of interviews in the selection process. The IBM team also conducted interviews with an additional eight students for summer internship opportunities.

IBM’s newest ASU hire, Keyonna West, started reporting to Norm Walton, Software Development Manager January 17 and two more ASU Fall ’16 computer science graduates are in the final stages of the interview process.

Friday, February 3 Dr. Rindos spoke to a group of ASU faculty and staff and shared his expertise as IBM’s Program Director for STSM, Emerging Technology Institute Head, Program Director for RTP Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) and IBM Cloud Academy, WW CAS Leader and University Relations Leader for the US. He funds grant programs that involve academics and global research, specifically for technology innovation. Dr. Rindos oversees as many as ten initiatives to include: Global University Programs, IBM Cloud Academy, IBM Academic Initiative, IBM z System Academic Initiative & Systems University Alliances, IBM Skills Academy, Watson Analytics Academic Programs and the IBM University Awards Program for fellowships, collaborative research, and faculty awards, among others. For 2016, there were 30 grants issued across K-12, higher education and the business community for research involving WATSON, autonomous vehicles, Bluemix, Blockchain technology, technology skill development in Africa, and student engagement initiatives using cognitive analytics, at more than 12 universities across the globe, the healthcare sectors, and manufacturing. Dr. Rindos was impressed with the partnership that Career Services and the faculty in the Computer Science department demonstrated to support students’ interest in technology through the *Initiative for Partnership in Student Career Success* specifically involving industry partners TSYS, the Master the Mainframe participation, the Code Academy, and research interests from Dr. Owor and Dr. Okonkwo that align with signature grant initiatives that fall within Dr. Rindos’ portfolio of research streams.