# Transcript: Ep 145 - Capstone Excellence Awards w/ Chris Kline

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Speaker #1 (Narrator):

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Speaker #2 (Dave Huff):

Hey folks. It's Dave Huff here with another episode of the IT Audio Series. Again with us today is Chris Klein. Chris is the Senior Manager for academic authenticity and our excellence awards. You may have listened to a previous podcast where we talked about the University's Excellence Award Program, and Chris today in this episode, what I want to focus in on a little more specifically then, is the Capstone Excellence Award. Part of the same program but it's different. Can you tell us what the Capstone Excellence Award is?

Speaker #3 (Chris Kline):

Sure. Well, the Capstone Excellence Award is an award that is earned as the title says, on a capstone. This is an award that is given to students in their culminating capstone task. End of a program, just as you're nearing the end, you have that capstone. This is the award that you would get as a result of the work that you've submitted if it's earned.

Speaker #2 (Dave Huff):

Chris, in the prior episode when we were talking about excellence awards, you explain the benefit to students. The recognition, also some help maybe in their persistence, things like that. For students who earns a Capstone Excellence Award, what's the takeaway? What's the real benefit for them?

Speaker #3 (Chris Kline):

Good question, David. Then, you know the other thing about the Capstone Excellence award, that does make it different about the standard excellence and we'd, like you noted is the fact that the capstone comes at the end of the program. The student is working for as they complete their capstone, working towards earning this Capstone Excellence Award by submitting that high-quality work, the original proposal, the original idea, kind of a novel concept when we think what a capstone should be. The Capstone Excellence Award is given to students who are working towards that final completion of the capstone submitting that solid work and their benefit to getting this award, is the fact they get a certificate, and they also are going to get a digital badge. The Capstone Excellence Award is attached to the transcripts, so it's a very high-stakes award. It's something that they can then go ahead and show a potential employer, whatever the case might be, that hey, they did earn this, this is what they did, and ultimately with that digital badge, it'll be in their NGP learner wallet, so it'll be on the trophy case side of the learner wallet. They'll have that to ultimately go ahead and show. But that high-stakes nature of this puts the focus on why a student would want to get that. It's attached to your transcripts so, that does suggest it's pretty important. That's something that will then follow you throughout your entire academic or professional career.

Speaker #2 (Dave Huff):

That's fantastic. What should a student do if they're starting their capstone and they're interested in earning this award, and having that badge and that recognition that they can share?

Speaker #3 (Chris Kline):

Being the high-stakes nature of the capstone as a project in and of itself. This is something where careful planning should be done, as it relates to coming up with what this capstone is going to look like, so engaging with the instructor very early in that process. Understanding that this is, like I said, it's a high-stakes assessment, because ultimately it's going to determine your completion of the program. But then when it comes to earning that Capstone of Excellence Award, the same things as we talked about with the Excellence Awards. Set the goal, talk to your program mentor, have them hold you accountable, that this is what you want to do. You want to earn this award because you want it on your transcript that you got it. You want to have that badge in your digital wallet. Then you're going to engage again with the instructor on a regular basis, maybe even more so than you think you will. Make it a habit to reach out to your instructor so that you can get their input. They can help to hold you accountable. Make sure you're staying on track with what you're proposing to do with the overall capstone, are you actually meeting that goal? As it relates to the content. Your instructor is here to help you. Your program mentor is there to help you. Let them hold you accountable for it. They're your partners.

Speaker #2 (Dave Huff):

Yeah, that's fantastic. Set the goal, share the goal and use the support that's there for you with your mentor and your course instructor.

Speaker #3 (Chris Kline):

That's it.

Speaker #2 (Dave Huff):

Excellent. Well, we know you guys are already doing your top most excellent work, and this is just a great opportunity to be recognized for that. Chris, thanks for taking the time to explain and share with us the Capstone Excellence Award Program. Chris, thank you very much.

Speaker #3 (Chris Kline):

Thank you.

Speaker #2 (Dave Huff):

Folks, this Dave Huff, another episode of the IT Audio Series.

Speaker #1 (Narrator):

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