In keeping with the mission of the *International Journal of Business Intelligence Research*, this special issue not only focuses on the latest academic research and practical findings on all aspects of managing business intelligence in organizations, but explores collaborations between academics and business applications. The original research and case studies contained herein focus on strategies, tools, techniques, and technologies for business intelligence. The research also contributes to our global forum for the investigation and reporting of diverse aspects and issues that affect business intelligence.

Collaborations presented in this issue range from the classical application of production scheduling, to innovative approaches to developing private-public research partnership, data mining, knowledge transfer the use of analytics in support of business processes and decision making.

We begin with a note prepared by our colleagues at Villanova University. This note presents the state of business analytics as seen by industry leaders. A questionnaire was developed and administered to senior-level executives from a diverse group of sixteen different firms. It led to the development of a new curriculum and enhanced relationships between the university and industry. This note provides a useful backdrop for the continued discussion of business intelligence.

The first paper presents a collaboration which resulted in the development and implementation of commercial production scheduling software. Optimal schedules are developed using classical operations research methods. We next present the results of an academic collaboration with FEMA in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The paper introduces the results of a data driven manpower audit for one parish in the greater New Orleans area that consolidated records and reconciled multiple record keeping systems.

The collaborations continue with the integration of industry data within academic course offerings. The first course was in data mining. It was offered for a cohort of health care professionals as an elective in a synchronous online MBA program. The students learned to use data mining to analyze data on two platforms and ultimately analyzed data sets from their place of employment. Benefits were accrued by the companies for which the students worked. The second academic offering not only highlighted collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry, but also highlighted collaboration between two courses: advanced decision-making and pharmaceutical marketing. Their goal was to mimic...
how the pharmaceutical industry determines the potential of new drugs.

The final paper proposes a competence center approach to business intelligence research. This is a private-public partnership between academia and practice. Twenty years of experience with the competence center approach suggest that the close link between research and practice promotes the relevance to practice while also fostering the rigor of research.

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IJBIR