

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS Network

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends
Fall 2001

Dear Friends,

Based on a strong foundation, the windows to the future of the College of Business have never been brighter. This foundation was made possible through a legacy of dedicated efforts and strong leadership from past deans, a dedicated faculty and staff, and first-rate students. I want to take this opportunity to thank Dean Norman Solomon for his contributions and leadership over the past three years. Dr. Solomon played a key role in strengthening our links with external stakeholders and partners as well as preparing the College's interim progress report to our accreditation agency, AACSB. This report received overwhelming approval by AACSB. I know you join me in wishing Norm and his wife Kathy the very best as he becomes the Dean of Fairfield University in Connecticut. It was humbling to be named the interim dean, and I thank my colleagues for the confidence and trust they have in me. With a career that spans fifteen years as a faculty and department chair, I have learned to appreciate Minnesota State's traditions and spirit. I will make every effort to keep us moving forward in our many exciting initiatives.

MARILYN L. FOX
INTERIM DEAN, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



This has been a busy year for the College of Business. Our innovative Information Technology Initiative is advancing at a rapid pace, as the dream becomes a reality. Last fall eight classes utilized notebook computers in a wireless environment, and this fall we will be offering thirty-four sections that will use computer aided instruction in a wireless mobile computing environment. You can learn more about our information technology initiative in a separate article in this issue of *Network*. We continue to move beyond traditional boundaries into a global learning environment by participating in

exchange programs with the renowned French business school, IFI Rouen and also Helia, Helsinki Business Polytechnic in Finland. In the spring, three to six students will be traveling to France, while MSU will be hosting three students from IFI Rouen for the academic year. Similarly, one College of Business student will be studying in Helia for the academic year and one each for fall and spring semester. Two Helia students will be studying at MSU for fall semester.

In continuing to provide quality, professional business education, we have moved forward on new hires in Management, Accounting and Business Law, and Finance, and in response to internal and external feedback, we are in the initial stages of curriculum development for a possible graduate degree. It's important to note that we are able to maintain momentum and continuous improvement in our educational offerings in large part because of the guidance and sup-

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E-Mentors Open Doors for MSU Students

In a note to Corinne Dickey, Assistant to the Dean of the College of Business, one College Advisory Council member said recently, "I had lunch with my student mentee today. I think he should be the mentor and I should be the student. He is very focused. Went over his resume and it looks good. His father is a very successful businessman and has given him very good advice. If he's a typical student, you guys are doing a great job!"

Dashed off in caps and sent by e-mail, this message conveys the genuine enthusiasm displayed by business people who have participated in MSU's College of Business E-Mentoring Program.

The MSU E-Mentoring Program, begun as a link with alumni at IBM, was organized by the University's Alumni Relations Department in 1999. At the request of Advisory Council members, and facilitated by Dickey, it has evolved within the College of Business as an Advisory Council program tailored to the needs of business students.

In their evaluation of the program, students are as effusive as the e-mentor quoted above. One wrote, "I want you to know that the E-Mentoring program has been outstanding...My mentor is an extraordinary individual and has given me incredible insight about many different topics...Not only do I consider my mentor to be a successful professional, but I also consider him a friend I can turn to for honest, knowledgeable advice."

During the 2000-2001 academic year, twenty-two MSU College of Business students were matched with twenty-one Advisory Council mentors. The mentoring

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PROMOTES SOLAR CAR



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DONORS MEET THE
STUDENTS THEY
SUPPORT