

Active Advisory Council Makes a Difference for MSU Students

The College of Business Advisory Council is a group of skilled professionals who are committed to students and to a high level of excellence in business. Almost unanimously, they become members of the Council because they appreciate the success they've attained and want to share the benefits of experience with others. They want young people to succeed.

Advisory Council members see the value of a strong connection between business and business education. They understand the vital role business plays in building healthy communities and are willing to become involved. Council members share their time, their expertise, and their enthusiasm to make things happen.

Visit an Advisory Council gathering and you feel the energy of confident people who know how to make decisions, solve problems and encourage common work toward common goals. This is a council of leaders who know the value of active learning and personal interaction and want to make those things part of business education.

Greg Lea '74, MSU graduate in Finance and current Council president, is a natural leader who inspires confidence. He clearly enjoys people and believes in their ability to influence outcomes.

"As a Council we want to be involved," emphasizes Greg. "We ask questions — How can we help the College? How can we help students? How can we recognize people who contribute to the College? We develop a vision and work to make that vision reality."

Simple questions have led to exciting answers, and the College has come to depend on the Council in vital ways.

COUNSEL

In a business environment of continuous change, the Advisory Council provides direction and counsel to College leaders. As programs are considered, implemented, and evaluated, the Council shares valuable insights — wisdom earned through daily work influenced by the dynamics of global markets, enhanced communications, and developing technologies.



DENNIS WAHLSTROM

CONNECTION

In the same way business communities thrive on connection and communication, education thrives on vital links with the "real world" — the place where what is learned is applied. By the very nature of their involvement, Advisory Council members create those connections. They *are* those connections. Their involvement has led to partnerships that are truly win/win situations.

MENTORING

Advisory Council members have made it clear that they want personal involvement with students. Through classroom visits, lectures, and the College's E-Mentoring Program they make a difference. And humbly, they insist that the relationships that result help them, too.



TAMI PAULSEN

Jim Tibbits, Council member and e-mentor to College of Business student Kristine Stebbins, sums up the spirit of the E-Mentoring program this way:

"Looking back, I can see that I entered the business world not knowing a lot. I had to hunt and find my own way. This is a chance for me to give back, provide someone younger with an opportunity I never had, and try to remove impediments for younger people."

PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT

Through formal events such as classroom visits, meetings and lectures, and informally as a resource for faculty and administrators, Advisory Council members influence the quality of programs at MSU. They do so by making themselves available, sharing their expertise, and thinking creatively about how to build stronger connections between student learning and the realities of the workplace.

Sometimes, great ideas evolve naturally. At a luncheon in May, Council members wondered aloud why they couldn't contribute regularly, even spontaneously, to the classroom experience using a web-cam. The College of Business is listening.

RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

In 1999, the Advisory Council decided that people who were doing great work needed recognition. They acted, and in the spring of 2001 the second annual Advisory Council Distinguished Awards were given to a professor, a student, and a regional businessperson.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

The Advisory Council's existence is nurturing a network of support for people of all ages who are engaging in a variety of pursuits. As contacts develop, students are more confidently seeking jobs and beginning connections of their own. They are experiencing the work of businesses and non-profit organizations with the movers and shakers who make them work. Businesses are hiring qualified employees, and College of Business activity is becoming more visible on campus and throughout Minnesota.

GREG LEA, ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESIDENT



ANNUAL ADVISORY COUNCIL AWARDS TO A BUSINESSPERSON, FACULTY MEMBER AND STUDENT ARE A TANGIBLE WAY THE COUNCIL ENCOURAGES THE WORK THAT HELPS STUDENTS MATURE AND BUSINESSES THRIVE.