New Year, More Activities

The Jodsaas Center Board continues its meetings via zoom in Spring 2021. While we offer some of the programs from last years, the hope to introduce new activities this year in order to support students with new leadership and business related ideas. We thank all students for attending these activities and appreciate any feedback or comments to improve our programs.

Workshop Series

The following workshops were presented during the first quarter of 2021:

- Jan 26, 2021: Mock Job interview
- Feb 18, 2021: Jump Start
- March 2021: Understanding Negotiation

The last workshop in 2021 academic year will be held in April 2021 which will be on Personal Finance.

The details of all past offered workshops including the videos can be found from this link: https://engineering.und.edu/outreach/jodsaas-center/workshop-series.html

Proposal for Interdisciplinary Design Project

Dr. Kouhyar Tavakolian presented earlier on a new Design Project format that is currently being taught at Simon Fraser University. He, together with Sandy Braathen and Amy Whitney met with the chair of the entrepreneurship program at Simon Fraser University and discussed their current setup for the Design Project. The board finds this proposal beneficial to the CEM and is keen to implement it in some way, after further discussions. A joint effort between the CEM and the School of Business is thought to be a strong direction to consider. Further updates will follow in the near future.

ENGR 410 Technology Venture

The ENGR 10 Technology Venture course is running this semester successfully with students from different CEM departments. The students are participating in college-based competitions.
Big Idea Challenge

The Spring 2021 Big Idea Challenge featured three student teams pitching ideas about “Smart Laboratories for Remote Engineer Training.” This timely topic is relevant due to COVID-19 with many lab-based activities occurring online. The Big Idea Challenge solicits ideas from students and then provides coaching and training to help the students refine their idea and prepare to pitch it before a judge panel. Coaching sessions are facilitated by Amy Whitney and Surojit Gupta. The winning team by both the judges panel and the audience was “Education Sight” an idea to develop a crowdsourced server for VR/AR lab experiences that colleges and students could access to enhance laboratory teaching and learning experiences. The student team members of Education Sight are Habib Ouadi, Abderraouf Chemmakh and Ahmed Merzouq. The team will receive $1000 as a judge prize and $1000 for the audience prize. The Big Idea Challenge is sponsored by the Edson & Margaret Larson Foundation. Their generosity supporting student innovators is greatly appreciated.

2021 Red River Valley Business Plan Competition

The Red River Valley Business Plan Competition is open to all undergraduate and graduate students at UND, proposing student-developed and managed new ventures. Ventures excluded from competing include franchises, real estate, consulting/personal service companies and financial service companies. This is a great chance to learn business planning techniques from industry experts! Over $100,000 available in prizes! Students need to search for the Blackboard site and then enroll themselves.

**Competition Dates:** April 23 - 24, 2021.

For any questions please contact Robert Warren robert.w.warren@und.edu or Sandy Braathen sandra.braathen@und.edu.

- Seminar 1 was held February 12. Topics: Value Proposition, Validation, and Business Model A recording of the session is available on the Red River Valley Business Plan Competition Blackboard site.
- Seminar 2 was held March 4 at 5:00 pm on Zoom. Topic: Financial Statements. A Zoom link is available on the Red River Valley Business Plan Competition Blackboard site.
- Seminar 3 will be held April 6 at 5:00 pm on Zoom. Topic: Presenting the Plan. A Zoom link will be available on the Red River Valley Business Plan Competition Blackboard site.

Student-Run Enterprises (SRE)

Thanks to Amy Whitney and Bethany Klemetsrud for their continued effort to promote the SRE initiative and following up with the necessary processes required to begin this program from Spring 2021. We will provide any additional information in due course to all students but in the meantime if you are interested in being a student founder or have any questions please contact Tyler Sletten at tyler.sletten@und.edu.

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