

MENDOZA EXCHANGE

News & info for faculty and staff at Mendoza College of Business

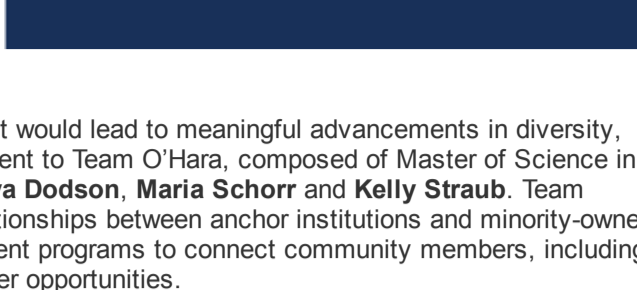
FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

APRIL 11, 2022

Guest column: Kristen Collett-Schmitt & Jessica McManus Warnell

A Reflection on the Inaugural DE&I Grow the Good in Business Case Competition

On April 1, the College officially concluded the first-ever [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Grow the Good in Business Case Competition](#). After two months and three rounds of competition, the top three teams of Specialized Master's students presented their business solutions to narrowing the wealth gap in Indiana.



While all three teams developed proposals that would lead to meaningful advancements in diversity, equity and inclusion, the top prize of \$7,000 went to Team O'Hara, composed of Master of Science in Management students **Katelyn Derifield**, **Maya Dodson**, **Maria Schorr** and **Kelly Straub**. Team O'Hara focused on fostering collaborative relationships between anchor institutions and minority-owned businesses, and creating workplace engagement programs to connect community members, including high school students, with education and career opportunities.

This case competition was certainly a passion project for both of us, but one that was also successful by many metrics. The 30 teams of Specialized Master's students who voluntarily opted into this case competition walked away from the experience with a strong sense of what it means to "Grow the Good in Business." The competition also provided the students with a rigorous academic experience that afforded them the opportunity to use and improve their leadership, problem solving, teamwork and presentation skills outside of the classroom, and later talk about their business proposals during job interviews.

Additionally, because students were encouraged to form teams across Specialized Master's programs, the DE&I case competition strengthened their sense of collaboration. Not only did we have teams from all five residential programs register, but we also had all five programs represented in the top 10. One of the teams that made it to the final round was composed of students from both the MNA and MSBA programs, and their pitch coach was a faculty member from the MSA program. In traditional coursework, such cross-program collaboration would not be possible!

In many ways, this case competition was absolutely necessary in order to truly prepare students to be future business leaders in our modern society. Because we created workshops for competition participants and aligned the competition with spring Interterm programming, we were able to deliver formal education on various topics related to DE&I to nearly 150 residential Specialized Master's students. This is notable, given the short duration of our programs and lack of such formal learning opportunities in our graduate curriculum. Examples of the workshops included Social Justice, Poverty and the Wealth Gap; Inclusive Language & Voicing Values; Diversity Through the Lens of Catholic Social Teaching; Managing Diverse Teams; and a DE&I Corporate Sponsor Panel with 1st Source Bank.

The success of this case competition would not have been possible without the support of so many of you. You answered the call to use your work of educating future business leaders to guarantee that diverse voices, experiences and backgrounds are valued, respected and nurtured. In addition to the Mendoza faculty and staff listed below who served as case writers, judges and competition organizers, we want to offer our special gratitude to **Joan McClendon** for remaining committed to the competition despite a new position in UEE, **Minhee Myung** for creating our beautiful website, **Jessica Stookey** and **Martin Johnson** for creating unique networking and practice opportunities for students, **Wendy Walker** for supplying the food and fun, **Karma Grundy** for her administrative support, **Mendoza IT** for guaranteeing that our opening and closing events ran smoothly, and **Mendoza Communications** for assisting with signage and promotions. We were also blessed by the support of MBA students, alumni, campus leaders outside of Mendoza, and corporate sponsors who volunteered to serve in various capacities throughout the competition, including by mentoring our students.

- Brett Beasley
- Carol Elliott
- Pat Gibbons
- Chad Harms
- Christopher Hillak
- Joe Holt
- Charlice Hurst
- Rob Kelly
- Angela Logan
- Lindsey McIntyre
- Amanda McKendree
- Connie Mick
- Kris Muir
- Kara Palmer
- Hermalena Powell
- Kelly Rubey
- Gina Shropshire
- Jim Seida
- Maria Stutsman y Márquez
- Joe Sweeney
- Tahra Taylor

We recognize the opportunities and challenges in diversity, equity and inclusion are complex and ongoing, and there's much work to be done. We hope that this year's case competition is just one example of the many ways in which Mendoza continues this meaningful and critical work.

Kristen Collett-Schmitt
Associate Dean for Specialized Master's Programs

Jessica McManus Warnell
Associate Teaching Professor of Management & Organization

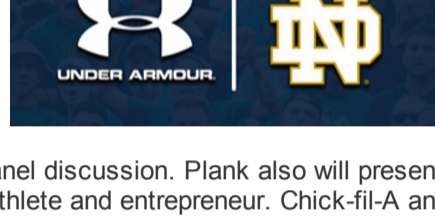
CALENDAR

[Check the calendar for upcoming event details.](#) Contact mendozabusiness@nd.edu for event posting access.

UPCOMING

APRIL 12

Under Armour College Speaker Series
6 p.m. (food) and 6:30 p.m. (main event); Heritage Hall at the Purcell Pavilion (RSVP required)



The event includes a panel discussion with Under Armour founder Kevin Plank and other UA executives on the topics of entrepreneurship, athletics and the transition from college athletics to the business world. Breakout sessions follow the panel discussion. Plank also will present the Under Armour story and his personal journey as a student athlete and entrepreneur. Chick-fil-A and Barnaby's Pizza will be served. Attendees must RSVP.

APRIL 20-23

IDEA Week

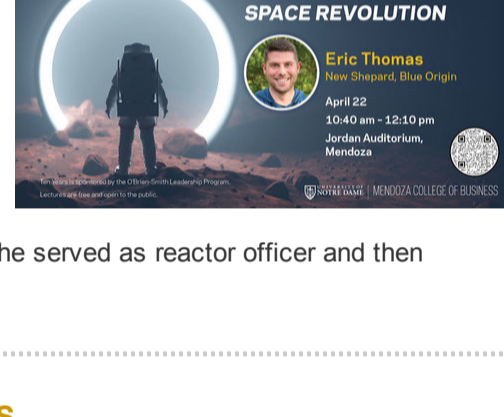
View all of the sessions [here](#).



IDEA Week is an innovation festival hosting business, technology, and entertainment events to provide entrepreneurs, students, and attendees with the practical knowledge, creative inspiration, and social foundation they need to innovate within their own careers, studies, and communities. Events include the McCloskey New Venture Competition, lectures and workshops and Food Trucks+Meet-Ups. (Registration required for some events.)

APRIL 22

Ten Years Hence: Paving a Way for the Space Revolution
10:40 a.m.; Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business (more info)



Eric Thomas, mission manager for New Shepard, Blue Origin, is a former submarine officer and Notre Dame MBA. He studied nuclear physics and was commissioned in the US Navy at Miami University. The majority of his naval career was spent leading sailors onboard ballistic missile submarines in the Pacific where he served as reactor officer and then operations manager for a nuclear submarine.

REMINDER FOR MENDOZA GRAD PROGRAMS

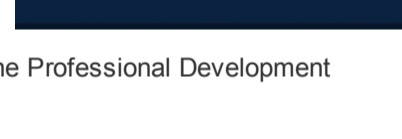
Earlier this spring, the Office of the Registrar adjusted the academic calendar to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a University holiday with no classes. As a result of this change in the calendar, adjustments were also made to the undergraduate course schedule for the last week of April. While Mendoza Graduate Programs observed Martin Luther King Jr. Day with the rest of the University, **classes will meet as originally scheduled during the week of April 25 - 28.** Please refer to program-specific Student Portals for academic calendars.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Submissions welcome! Click [here](#) or email mendozabusiness@nd.edu.

THRIVE!

Thrive! Leadership Opportunities: Self-Nominations



Interested in professional development, networking, career growth and access to University senior leadership? [Consider nominating yourself](#) for one of the many leadership opportunities within Thrive! by the **Thursday, April 14** deadline. All members are welcome to apply for board positions, the Communications Committee, Engagement Committee, Mentoring Committee, and the Professional Development Committee.

Visit the [Mendoza diversity, equity & inclusion resource portal](#) on the Mendoza Exchange site to find events, articles, workshops, videos and more to help you live out the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion both in the workplace and the classroom.

FAC/STAFF UPDATES & INFO

Submissions welcome! Click [here](#) or email mendozabusiness@nd.edu.

CAREER

- [Business Process & IT Solutions Engineer](#) (closes April 15)
- [Facilities Administrator](#) (closes April 19)
- [BOTFL Managing Program Director](#) (closes April 28)

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION MONTH

Twenty-three lucky individuals were the recipients of Employee Appreciation Month prizes. Chosen once per day, each received a unique item relevant to that special day. A few of their photos and comments are below.

"Thanks, All! I'm delighted to claim my prize. Fun fact, did you know that Mario's first name is Itzame? Sorry. I'm working on my dad-jokes. They'll be ready by June, I promise!"
Jim Spencer

"Actually, Johnny Appleseed holds a special place in my heart because my poppi (grandpa) loved the family to sing the Johnny Appleseed song as prayer at big family meals. All we sang it together at his funeral meal too."
Kalynda Hamilton

"Thanks, Candice! I claim my prize (mini pies), and will try not to finish them all off today in honor of this momentous occasion."
Phil Drendall

Congratulations to our winners!

"I accept this award on behalf of all staff who have, at one time during their twenties, relied on cereal as their only nourishment for all three meals. With or without milk."
Dana Pierce

"I love pandas, but I really love snacks! On average, a panda feeds for approximately 12 hours a day. It's the same with humans under quarantine. That's why it's called a 'Pandemic'."
Colleen Cota

IN THE NEWS

For more stories and news, visit mendoza.nd.edu/new-events.

Finance's **Jeff Bergstrand** was featured in a Kellogg Institute for International Studies piece about their Initiative on International Economic Integration (IIEI) Policy and Practice Lab. Jeff is the principal investigator for the IIEI Lab and a Kellogg faculty fellow. [Read more here.](#)

ON CAMPUS

Spring is officially here! Send photos of you and your family, pets or just signs of spring outside and on campus to mendozabusiness.nd.edu.



Rob Kelly: "A squirrel exits from hibernation and peeks in our kitchen window to see what's going on..."



Zara Osterman: "Finally some hints of spring around Mendoza! Sunshine and warm weather aren't far behind."

SUBMIT NEWS!



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