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Lewis College of Business establishes Center for Stakeholder Engagement in Corbly Hall

The Marshall University Lewis College of Business has established a physical location for the Center for Stakeholder Engagement, located inside the Dean's Suite in Room 107 of Corbly Hall. The initiative will promote Marshall's business academic programs and boost student engagement and professional development. The center aims to connect faculty, students, alumni and corporate partners through strategic projects, as well as keeping stakeholders informed of the college's latest initiatives and developing internships that connect Marshall's corporate partners with students and graduates.

Glen Midkiff, the director of the center, will work closely with stakeholders throughout the region, such as chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, area development districts and workforce development organizations to connect business students with members of the business community by creating internship and career opportunities.

Additionally, students in the Brad D. Smith Schools of Business will have the opportunity to enhance their classroom experience through professional development experiences such as the Ron & Sandy Cohen Business Professionalism Speaker Series or CohenTalks. The series allows students to make the connection between classroom teachings and real-world business applications through meeting experienced and successful industry professionals.

Programs like the Cohen Business Professionalism Speaker Series and experiential learning opportunities, like internships, are critical to our college's mission of preparing successful business professionals advancing economic development throughout West Virginia and beyond. The Center for Stakeholder Engagement will play a significant role in the college's effort to connect and communicate to its stakeholders.

The center will continue to engage with the business community through roundtables, panel discussions, networking and guest speaking opportunities, as well as workshops, mentoring, mock interviews and more.

"Professional enrichment activities by involving our business partners provide a great opportunity of our students to advance their skills, knowledge and leadership as they search and find internships," Glen Midkiff said.

For more information about the center or to establish an internship partnership, please contact Glen Midkiff by e-mail at midkiff2@marshall.edu or by phone at 304-696-3431.



MONDAY MORNING MEMO

from Dean Avi Mukherjee

Lewis College of Business and OVP HEALTH establish internship program to promote diversity

Marshall University's Lewis College of Business and its Brad D. Smith Schools of Business have entered into an agreement with OVP HEALTH, a rapidly growing health care company headquartered in downtown Huntington, to advance and promote diversity in recruitment, hiring, mentoring and retention, by establishing a field-based experience program that provides paid internship opportunities for students of color enrolled in the college.

The new internship program will be open to master's-level students in all the business disciplines at the Brad D. Smith Graduate School of Business, and will begin in January 2021. Additionally, OVP HEALTH will be working with the business college and schools to provide unpaid mentoring opportunities for undergraduate business students of color, as part of their curriculum.

"Our company employs nearly 400 people across five states, and we have always understood and appreciated the value of diversity," said Robert A. Hess, M.D., president and co-founder of OVP HEALTH. "But in looking at the cultural and racial makeup of our workforce, we saw that we had some work to do to become the kind of diverse company we aspire to be. It became clear to us that attracting employees from different backgrounds would require more from us than just having a non-discriminatory hiring policy. It would require us to be proactive, and to reach out."

The Lewis College of Business and its Brad D. Smith Schools of Business are excited about our relationship with OVP HEALTH. One of our strategic priorities has always been to help facilitate relationships between industry and our students. By offering our students experiential learning opportunities, such as internships with OVP HEALTH, they can practice and validate what they are learning in class, as well as develop networking and mentoring relationships.

Marshall University business students interested in the internship program should contact Dr. Kent Willis, Professor of Health Care Management at willis23@marshall.edu or Glen Midkiff, director of the Center for Stakeholder Engagement, by emailing midkiff2@marshall.edu, or by calling 304-696-3431.

OVP HEALTH provides an extensive range of emergency department and hospitalist services for local and regional hospitals; operates primary care and after-hours facilities; and offers accredited outpatient and inpatient medication-assisted treatment and counseling services for people suffering from addiction in a growing number of communities across West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, South Carolina and Virginia. For more information about OVP HEALTH, go to ovphealth.com.