

# DUQUESNE

BUSINESS  
LEADER

## From Intern to CFO

Kevin Lewis B'08, MBA'11,  
leads through legacy,  
change and purpose



Summer/Fall 2026



DUQUESNE  
UNIVERSITY

Palumbo-Donahue  
School of Business



# Partner With Purpose

At Duquesne University's Palumbo-Donahue School of Business, students prepare for meaningful careers through experience, mentorship and connection.

Corporate and community partners help make that possible.

Through the School's Corporate and Community Partner Program, organizations can engage with students, faculty, Centers of Excellence and Institutes in ways that align with their goals while helping students build the confidence, skills and professional networks they need to contribute from day one.

## Your Partnership Helps Students

Partners play an active role in creating the hands-on experiences that define a Duquesne business education.

Your support can help students:

- Gain real-world business experience
- Connect with employers, alumni and mentors
- Build confidence through client-facing projects
- Access industry tools, competitions and networking
- Prepare to lead with ethics, purpose and professional skill

## Start a Conversation

Interested in becoming a corporate or community partner?

Contact:  
**Martin Black**  
**Director of Corporate Relations**  
**and Community Partnerships**  
**412-396-1972**  
**blackm1@duq.edu**

Scan the QR code to explore ways to support the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business.



## Ways to Partner



### Support Centers and Institutes

Partners may support the School's Centers of Excellence and Institutes, which serve as hubs for student learning, faculty expertise, research, professional networking and career development.

Opportunities include the Investment Strategy Institute, Center for Leadership in Professional Selling, Eugene P. Beard Center for Student Success, Center for Excellence in Supply Chain Management, Center for Excellence in Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Center.



### Bring Business Into the Classroom

Through Duquesne's Cornerstone-to-Capstone experiential learning model, partners can serve as live clients for student consulting projects.

Students work in teams to research, analyze and develop recommendations for real organizational challenges—gaining practical experience while offering partners fresh thinking and data-informed solutions.



### Invest in Professional Growth

Designated partner organizations may be eligible for Duquesne's Community Partners Tuition Discount Program, creating additional opportunities for employees and members to pursue graduate business education.

## The Business of Difference Making®

At Duquesne, business education is about more than preparing students for their first job. It is about helping them develop the judgment, confidence and purpose to improve organizations, strengthen communities and make any team better.

When alumni, employers and community partners invest in the School of Business, they help open doors for students and shape the next generation of ethical, innovative business leaders.



# A Message From Dr. Dean McFarlin

Dear Alumni, Friends, Students and Partners,

In today's dynamic business environment, preparing future leaders means building a strong business foundation, leveraging emerging technologies and cultivating the communication, adaptability and leadership skills needed to thrive in an ever-changing marketplace.

At the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business, where ethics, innovation and leadership are our guiding principles, we are committed to providing a top-tier business education that prepares graduates to become difference-makers who lead with integrity and foster a deep sense of social responsibility.

That commitment is reflected in our strategic plan, **Palumbo-Donahue 2030: Enhancing Distinctive Excellence (PD 2030)**.

Grounded in the University's inclusive Spiritan mindset, **PD 2030** pursues an ambitious vision: to be the best student-focused business school known for transforming lives through difference-making education, producing sought-after graduates and generating innovative thought leadership that improves business and society.

**PD 2030** serves as both a roadmap and a call to action. It challenges us to think boldly about what business education can achieve and how we can create even greater value for our students, our partners, and the communities we serve. Anchored by a clear mission and values statement, the strategic plan defines the School's values and identifies five strategic goals essential to future success. (Read more on page 3.)

As you read this issue of *Duquesne Business Leader*, you will see how our strategic goals come to life through stories of programming and innovation occurring throughout the School.

New academic programs in Real Estate and Financial Planning, along with our revised Flex MBA, demonstrate how we are creating educational opportunities that align with evolving workforce needs.

Discover how artificial intelligence is being thoughtfully integrated across the curriculum to prepare students for the future while maintaining a strong emphasis on ethics, critical thinking, and human-centered leadership.

Our Centers of Excellence and Institutes continue to enhance experiential learning by linking students with industry leaders and providing practical opportunities through course-embedded real-world projects, as well as participation in competitions and conferences. The Eugene P. Beard Center for Student Success offers comprehensive, holistic support



for students throughout their educational journey, making the Duquesne experience distinctive.

Read about our growing network of corporate and community partnerships that integrate client-based projects into the classroom while providing internships and career pathways.

See how entrepreneurship is flourishing through initiatives like the Duquesne New Venture Challenge and how investments in Rockwell Hall are creating dynamic spaces for collaboration and innovation.

Together, these efforts strengthen our ability to provide a student-centered educational experience that transforms lives.

While we are proud of the significant progress already made, our strategic plan is not a destination—it is an aspirational commitment to a future vision for the School, one that constantly evolves. The accomplishments featured in these pages demonstrate meaningful momentum, but they also remind us that our work must continue.

We remain focused on preparing sought-after graduates, strengthening our impact on business and society, and ensuring that the next generation of difference makers is equipped to navigate an increasingly complex and innovative world.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your engagement, partnership and support are indispensable to our success.

Sincerely,  
**Dr. Dean McFarlin, Ph.D.**  
**Dean, Palumbo-Donahue School of Business**  
**Duquesne University**



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 **DUQUESNE**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
Palumbo-Donahue  
School of Business

## Palumbo-Donahue 2030: A Vision for Difference-Making Excellence

In 2025, the School of Business launched its new five-year strategic plan, **Palumbo-Donahue 2030: Enhancing Distinctive Excellence**. The renewed Vision, Mission and Values, along with Five Strategic Goals, set a clear, transformative vision for the School, reflecting the challenges and opportunities in today's rapidly evolving business landscape.



### Our Vision

We aspire to be the best student-focused business school known for:

- Difference-making education that instills the inclusive Spiritan mindset and transforms lives
- In-demand graduates who change companies and the world for the better
- Innovative thought leadership that improves business and society



### Our Mission

We develop sought-after business leaders who possess the ethical character, Spiritan mindset and solutions-oriented skills needed to be global difference makers. We accomplish this through faculty and staff who deeply engage our students, alumni and community partners to create:

- Educational experiences that improve lives
- Solutions to important business and social challenges
- Thought leadership with lasting societal impact



### Our Values That Drive Us Forward

- Passionate about our students and instilling practical wisdom
- Driven by ethics and principles of integrity
- Encouraging inclusiveness, belonging and collaboration
- Developing leaders who improve the world
- Pursuing research that matters to business and society

### Five Strategic Goals

- 1 Offer in-demand educational programs that set our graduates apart through difference-making experiences that transform business, community and society.
- 2 Create external partnerships that deliver difference-making, entrepreneurial solutions for important ethical, strategic and sustainability challenges facing organizations and communities.
- 3 Strengthen the ability of our faculty to inspire all students and produce difference-making research.
- 4 Strengthen our School's Business of Difference Making brand and elevate our external visibility with key constituencies.
- 5 Significantly increase philanthropic resources in the School to remove entry barriers for students, enhance difference-making educational experiences, improve faculty support and create and maintain learning environments that are second to none.

*The School of Business has already made meaningful progress toward achieving these goals. As you read this edition of the Duquesne Business Leader, keep them in mind—they are reflected in the stories you will read.*



# From Intern to CFO:

## Kevin Lewis Leads Through Legacy, Change and Purpose



Kevin Lewis at U. S. Steel

“My advice to students is to be a sponge, learn and absorb as much information and experience as possible because that creates a perspective about the business that you’ll carry with you forever.”

Lewis helped lead U. S. Steel through its acquisition by Nippon Steel, a historic partnership intended to preserve the 125-year legacy of U. S. Steel while supporting its future through significant investments in U. S. steelmaking.

Throughout the transaction, Lewis helped coordinate efforts among company executives, board members, investment bankers, attorneys, regulators and employees. The process required steady leadership, active listening and strategic decision-making during a period of uncertainty.

“We started every meeting with our code of conduct,” Lewis said, referring to U. S. Steel’s S.T.E.E.L. principles: Safety First, Trust and Respect, Environmental Stewardship, Excellence and Accountability, and Lawful and Ethical Conduct.

For Lewis, those principles reflect the values-based leadership he developed at Duquesne.

When Kevin Lewis B’08, MBA’11, first visited Duquesne University, he was a first-generation college student searching for a place that would prepare him for something bigger.

Growing up in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, Lewis considered several universities before visiting campus. During a presentation in Rockwell Hall, a professor opened the shades, pointed toward downtown Pittsburgh and told prospective students that the city was their playground from a business perspective.

The moment stayed with him.

“When you combine the academic reputation of Duquesne with the opportunity of being in a city-based university that has a close relationship with employers in the region, attending Duquesne was an obvious choice,” Lewis said.

Today, Lewis serves as Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Tubular Solutions at U. S. Steel. He recently played a central role in one of the most significant corporate transactions in the company’s history. Yet even as his responsibilities have grown, Lewis remains

grounded in the values that first drew him to Duquesne nearly two decades ago.

### A Foundation for Leadership

Lewis credits Duquesne with giving him more than a business education. It gave him a framework for ethical decision-making, leadership and navigating uncertainty.

“My education at the School of Business prepared me from a leadership and ethics standpoint to make values-based decisions in a very complicated world,” he said.

As a student, Lewis was active in Delta Sigma Pi, a professional business fraternity that connected him with alumni, expanded his network and introduced him to other business disciplines. His Duquesne experience also shaped his personal life. Lewis said that if it were not for his college roommates, he would not have met his wife.

“Everything really does lead back to the University in some form or fashion,” he said.

After earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a double major in finance and sports marketing, Lewis chose to continue at Duquesne through the

MBA program. Evening classes allowed him to balance graduate studies with the start of his career at U. S. Steel.

“I felt like I got a great undergraduate education, and I didn’t really see a need to go anywhere else,” he said. “Duquesne allowed me to focus on my education while accelerating my professional ambitions.”

### From Student Internship to Corporate Leadership

Lewis’ relationship with U. S. Steel began through a campus recruiting event. He secured an internship with the company as an undergraduate student and never left.

Nearly 20 years later, he has risen from intern to CFO, a journey shaped by determination, curiosity and continuous learning.

“My advice to students is to be a sponge,” Lewis said. “Learn and absorb as much information and experience as possible because that creates a perspective about the business that you’ll carry with you forever.”

That mindset proved especially valuable as



Kevin Lewis at U. S. Steel



Go beyond the article and hear Kevin Lewis reflect on leadership, legacy and the Duquesne experiences that shaped his career.

[duq.edu/kevinlewis](https://duq.edu/kevinlewis)



Kevin Lewis at U. S. Steel



**Protecting Legacy,  
Investing in the Future**

The transaction secured billions of dollars in investment to modernize U. S. Steel facilities, including major operations in Western Pennsylvania.

“This was really about protecting the business and protecting the people,” Lewis said. “There were thousands and thousands of workers and families counting on the outcome.”

Among the projects that excite him most is the planned modernization of U. S. Steel’s Mon Valley facilities, an investment Lewis believes will help ensure the region’s steelmaking operations remain competitive for future generations.

“We have 125 years of success behind us,” he said. “But I truly believe the next chapter is going to be our best chapter.”

**Strategic Goals**

1 2 5

**Giving Back to Duquesne**

While helping lead one of Pittsburgh’s most iconic companies, Lewis remains closely connected to his alma mater.

As a member of the Investment Strategy Institute Advisory Council, he helps shape opportunities for future business students. He also reminds students that finance careers extend far beyond Wall Street and investment banking.

“There are a lot of exciting finance-related roles inside companies that students aren’t always aware of,” he said.

That connection expanded in spring 2026, when U. S. Steel partnered with the School of Business as the corporate client for the Strategic Management Capstone, a course taken by all undergraduate business students. Students developed recommendations for an existing strategic challenge facing the company: evaluating potential locations and strategies for a future steel mill investment.

“The students really dug in,” Lewis said. “The level of engagement, research and quality of the recommendations impressed everyone involved.”

**Leading Through Service**

Lewis describes his leadership style as servant leadership, rooted in humility, teamwork and purpose.

“I’m here to help accelerate progress, remove obstacles and make the organization better than I found it,” he said.

In May 2026, Lewis received the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business Young Alumnus Achievement Award, an honor he called one of the most meaningful recognitions of his career.

For today’s students, his advice is simple: Be a sponge. Be authentic. And never underestimate the power of values-driven decision-making.

**Real Business  
Challenge.  
Real Student  
Experience.**

In spring 2026, U. S. Steel partnered with the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business as the corporate client for the Strategic Management Capstone. Student teams developed recommendations for an existing strategic challenge: evaluating potential locations and strategies for a future steel mill investment.



“The students really dug in,” Lewis said. “The level of engagement, research and quality of the recommendations impressed everyone involved.”



Kevin Lewis, pictured with his family, receives the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business Young Alumnus Achievement Award



# Rockwell Hall:

## Building for the Future of Business Education

“Rockwell Hall is more than a building with learning spaces—it’s an experiential sandbox where students can experiment and tackle real business challenges as they develop the knowledge, relationships and skills that will make them difference makers.

These ongoing investments reflect our commitment to creating an environment that supports innovation, collaboration and student success while preparing sought-after graduates.”

**Dr. Dean McFarlin, Ph.D.**  
Dean, Palumbo-Donahue  
School of Business  
Duquesne University



Rockwell Hall is changing with the needs of today’s business students.

Over the past several years, the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business has invested in building and technology upgrades that support accessible, student-centered education. The improvements strengthen experiential learning in classrooms and labs while creating open, collaborative spaces where students can connect with peers, faculty, alumni, employers and community partners.

The School also has continued to update Rockwell Hall’s technology infrastructure. More than 20 digital information displays have been added or updated throughout the building, sharing timely updates on School news, events, employer engagement opportunities and other announcements. In 2026, Rockwell Hall’s Wi-Fi network was replaced with more powerful wireless access points, improving speed, security and connectivity throughout the building.

### A More Welcoming Rockwell

One of the most visible updates begins before students and visitors enter the building from the Bluff. The sixth-floor entrance was replaced with a technologically sophisticated skywalk that uses a passive ventilation system to help regulate temperature, creating a more comfortable arrival experience.

The skywalk leads into Rockwell’s two-story Atrium, a bright, welcoming space with pendant lighting, wraparound windows and flexible seating. Nearby, the Alpha Phi Delta Sustainable Innovation Space gives students room to study, eat and collaborate. The Business Leader Bistro offers students, faculty and staff a convenient place to grab meals, snacks and coffee between classes.

### Learning With Industry Tools

Behind the Atrium, the Investment Strategy Institute gives students access to the kind of financial technology used by leading

investment firms. In summer 2026, the ISI classroom was upgraded with 36 new computers and updated software to reflect current industry standards.

Across the hall, 26 new computers were installed in the Dan Cancelmi and Noreen Cancelmi Poploski Enterprise Learning Lab, giving students additional hands-on access to current business technology.

### Spaces That Support Student Success

The seventh floor has been transformed into a student-centered hub that advances the mission of the Eugene P. Beard Center for Student Success. The renovated space includes areas for recruitment, student coaching, peer mentor offices, career development and events.

The Welcome Center serves as a venue for corporate networking and School events, as well as a place for students to study, collaborate and recharge. Glass-fronted

offices and collaborative workspaces were designed to improve accessibility, transparency and connection.

Additional renovations have continued throughout Rockwell Hall. The eighth floor received updated restrooms, carpeting, heating and cooling systems, fire suppression improvements and a redesigned elevator lobby. Carfang Commons is being upgraded with new restrooms and improvements to heating, cooling, lighting and fire suppression. Rockwell’s stairways also were refreshed with scenic Duquesne imagery and the School’s Business of Difference Making® tagline.

### More to Come

Future plans include renovating street-level entrances, beginning with Boyd Street, and developing a Center for Real Estate and Sustainable Development as part of a larger third-floor renovation. The timing of future projects will depend on fundraising.

Together, these investments are creating a more welcoming, connected and technologically sophisticated environment where students can learn, collaborate and prepare to lead in a rapidly changing business world.

### Strategic Goals

1 2 3 4 5

## Help Shape What’s Next for Rockwell Hall

With support from alumni and friends, the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business continues to create learning spaces that reflect the way business works today: collaborative, technology-rich and focused on real-world impact.

Your generosity helps ensure future Duquesne business students have the spaces, tools and opportunities they need to become ethical, innovative leaders ready to make a difference. To learn more about supporting Rockwell Hall, contact:

**Adam Viers**  
Assistant Dean of Advancement  
412-396-1322  
viersa@duq.edu



Find out how you  
can support  
Rockwell Hall.

THE BUSINESS OF **DIFFERENCE MAKING**®



Eugene P. Beard Center for Student Success



Carfang Commons



Investment Strategy Institute



# Partnership to Profession:

## The Power of Corporate Engagement

At Duquesne University’s Palumbo-Donahue School of Business, corporate partnerships do more than connect students with employers. They bring business education to life.

Through the School’s Corporate and Community Partner Program, students gain access to organizations that help expand what is possible in the classroom, in their careers and in the communities they will serve. These relationships support a signature approach to business education rooted in experience, professional preparation and purpose.

### A Growing Network

The School has long drawn on Pittsburgh’s business community and Duquesne’s alumni network to connect students with real-world learning opportunities. That work reached a new milestone in 2020, when EY partnered with the First-Year Innovation Experience and helped lay the groundwork for a more formal corporate engagement model.

In 2021, the School formalized the Corporate and Community Partner Program with founding partners Wesco International and MSA Safety. By 2026, the program

had grown from two partners to nearly 30 corporate and community organizations.

That growth reflects the School’s reputation as a trusted partner in business education. Employers invest in Duquesne because they see value in its students, faculty and hands-on approach to learning. In return, students gain access to meaningful professional experiences, expanded networks and a clearer understanding of how their education connects to the world of work.

### Partners in Student Success

Today, organizations can partner with the School as a whole or align with one of its nationally recognized centers and institutes. Corporate and community support helps advance scholarships, student competitions, experiential learning, technology and personnel. Many partnerships also provide ongoing support for the Center for Excellence in Supply Chain Management, the Center for Leadership in Professional Selling, the Investment Strategy Institute and the Small Business Development Center.

Each partnership is tailored to meet an organization’s goals while creating meaningful opportunities for students.

Through tiered sponsorship levels, companies can participate in recruiting events, networking opportunities, classroom engagement and thought leadership initiatives while increasing their visibility across the School.

The School’s growing partner network includes global organizations such as EY, Howmet Aerospace, Kraft Heinz, Northwestern Mutual, U. S. Steel and Wesco International, as well as regional and national leaders including Ally Financial, Dollar Bank, enGen, Excelitas Technologies, Federated Hermes, First Commonwealth Bank, MSA Safety, SC&H and Schneider Downs.

### Career Pathways With Purpose

The greatest measure of the program’s success is its impact on students.

These partnerships have helped open doors to internships and careers with organizations including JPMorgan Private Bank, SpaceX, The Walt Disney Company, BNY, EY, PNC Bank, PPG and others. Wesco alone has hired more than 100 Duquesne



THE BUSINESS OF **DIFFERENCE MAKING®**



graduates. Ally Financial recently reported that half of its internship class came through its engagement with the Center for Leadership in Professional Selling, with two Duquesne students earning positions in DRIVE, the company’s highly competitive two-year rotational leadership program that selects just six participants nationwide.

Corporate partners also play an important role in the School’s Cornerstone-to-Capstone experiential learning model. Every business student completes multiple client-based consulting projects, developing solutions to real business challenges and presenting their work directly to industry professionals.

For students, the result is more than career preparation. It is confidence. It is connection. It is the ability to enter the workplace prepared to contribute from day one.

Together, the School and its corporate and community partners are opening doors,

building career pathways and bringing the Business of Difference Making® to life for Duquesne business students.

### Strategic Goals

1 2 5

### Become a Corporate and Community Partner

Learn how your organization can support student success while building meaningful connections with the School of Business. To learn more about partnership opportunities, contact:

**Martin Black**  
**Director of Corporate Relations**  
**and Community Partnerships**  
**412-396-1972**  
**blackm1@duq.edu**



Find out how you can become a Corporate and Community Partner.



# Duquesne New Venture Challenge Builds Momentum

The Duquesne New Venture Challenge has quickly become one of the region's premier entrepreneurship competitions, giving aspiring entrepreneurs the funding, mentorship and resources to move bold ideas closer to market.

Since its launch in 2019, the DNVC has experienced significant growth. Participation has more than doubled, from 65 teams in its inaugural year to more than 150 teams in 2025-26. Prize funding has grown as well, from a \$25,000 finalist prize pool to more than \$125,000 in combined cash and in-kind awards.

For 2026-27, the finalist prize pool has increased to \$65,000, with the winning team receiving \$30,000. Finalists also receive valuable noncash support, including legal services, business consulting, mentorship and other resources designed to help promising ventures grow.

## A Launchpad for Entrepreneurs

Today, the DNVC is more than a pitch competition. It is a launchpad for entrepreneurs and a reflection of the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business' commitment to innovation, economic impact and the entrepreneurial mindset.

Much of that momentum has been driven by Staci Offutt, director of the Center for Excellence in Entrepreneurship and assistant professor of practice in entrepreneurship. Since assuming leadership of the competition in 2022, Offutt has expanded the DNVC by drawing on her network within Pittsburgh's startup ecosystem to attract participants, strengthen industry partnerships and increase funding and resources.

"The competitors are getting better and better each year," Offutt said. "We're seeing more ventures that address meaningful societal challenges, strengthen communities, and advance sustainability, while demonstrating the level of innovation and market readiness needed to succeed beyond the competition."

## Learning Through Experience

As the DNVC has grown, so have opportunities for Duquesne students.

By integrating the competition into the entrepreneurship and innovation major curriculum, students can develop business concepts in the classroom and test them in a professional setting. Courses such as New Venture Enterprise, Product Innovation, Ideation Adventure and Guerrilla Marketing teach foundational skills needed to ideate, launch and market new business ideas.

Students also gain exposure to startup professionals, investors and mentors, building confidence and experience that prepare them to contribute beyond the classroom.

## Impact Beyond the Competition

The DNVC's impact extends well beyond the final pitch. Several finalist teams have gone on to secure funding, join accelerator programs and earn regional recognition. In recent years, HeadStrait Labs, Clean Plate Innovations, Aquatonomy, VELO, AI, DisSolves and MindTrace have been recognized by the Pittsburgh Business Times as startups to watch.

Aquatonomy, the 2024 DNVC winner, developed an autonomous robotic inspection platform for underwater infrastructure. The company has participated in Innovation Works' Robotics Factory Accelerate Program and PGH Lab, a six-month paid program that allows startups to test new technologies in collaboration with city government. Aquatonomy also has received federal support from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Office of Naval Research, U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

## How It Works

The DNVC includes three stages and is judged by Duquesne alumni with professional experience in entrepreneurship

**Duquesne Success Story**  
Read how Clean Plate Innovations grew from startup idea to DNVC champion on page 14.

and innovation. Participants submit video pitches, business summaries and business plans before finalists present in person to a panel of judges.

Current sponsors of the DNVC include LivePlan, F6S, Duquesne University's Small Business Development Center, Duquesne University's Thomas R. Kline School of Law, and Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney. Past sponsors include Bob Mallet, 412 Venture Fund and Blue Tree Capital.

Applications for the 2026-27 DNVC open Aug. 25, 2026.

## Strategic Goals

1 2 3



Mary Squire, Co-Founder of HeadStrait Labs, presenting her product

### Our Mission

Improving patient care requires adoption by healthcare systems.

We build solutions that work for patients, providers, and the systems that buy them.

THE BUSINESS OF **DIFFERENCE MAKING**®

**DNVC**  
DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY  
NEW VENTURE CHALLENGE  
— 2026-2027 —

## How It Works

2026-27 DNVC  
Applications open  
Aug. 25, 2026

Stage 1: Video  
pitch and business  
summary

Stage 2: Business  
plan and pitch  
development

Stage 3:  
Final presentation  
to judges



# Clean Plate Innovations Turns Food Waste Into Opportunity

What began as an idea at a Duquesne-hosted startup event has grown into an award-winning company using technology to address food waste.

Founded by Duquesne alumni and students Nolan Sulpizio B'24, Daniel Oldak B'23, Diego Lopez B'25 and Ashton Jell B'26, Clean Plate Innovations is helping organizations measure and reduce food waste through an AI-enabled tracking platform. The company's smart camera system uses computer vision to identify and calculate plate waste in real time, giving operators and consumers actionable insights through a personalized dashboard.

## From Startup Weekend to DNVC Champion

Clean Plate Innovations began in February 2024 at Techstars Startup Weekend Pittsburgh, hosted by Duquesne's Center for Excellence in Entrepreneurship. The team placed second overall and earned six months of free office space at Avenu Workspaces. Later that year, the company entered the 2024-25 Duquesne New Venture

Challenge. After earning third place in the Best Pitch Video Competition, Clean Plate Innovations advanced through each stage of the competition and was named the DNVC's first-place winner in April 2025.

The award provided \$20,000 in funding, legal services through Duquesne University's Thomas R. Kline School of Law, consulting support from Duquesne University's Small Business Development Center and a six-month LivePlan license from Palo Alto Software.

## Building Momentum

Since then, Clean Plate Innovations has continued to grow its platform, partnerships and visibility.

The company was selected for Innovation Works' Robotics Factory Program in 2024, where the team refined its prototype using Innovation Works facilities and resources. In 2025, Clean Plate Innovations joined the Innovation Works AlphaLab Hardware Accelerator, receiving \$100,000 in funding, facility access and accelerator programming led by industry experts.

“Through the School of Business's various competitions, projects and assignments, I had the opportunity to both compete and win. Developing that confidence has helped me see that I can be a difference maker.”

The company also ranked No. 31 on F6S's Top 50 AI Companies and Startups in Pittsburgh and received an honorable mention on Technical.ly's RealLIST Startups 2025.

Clean Plate Innovations launched its first operational pilot at the Harvard Yale Princeton Club with Bistro to Go in Pittsburgh and later expanded its reach through a pilot case study with Seneca Valley School District. The district confirmed a 2026-27 partnership to continue tracking food waste.



Daniel Oldak and Nolan Sulpizio



## Recognition Beyond Pittsburgh

In 2026, Clean Plate Innovations was named to Technical.ly's RealLIST Startups and recognized by the Pittsburgh Business Times as one of its "10 Startups to Watch."

The company also gained international exposure through the Unicorn Factory Lisboa Cleantech Accelerator. Oldak, Clean Plate Innovations' chief strategic officer, presented the company's technology at the program's closing ceremony in Lisbon, Portugal, after the company was selected as one of six technology finalists.

### Strategic Goals

1 2 4

## A Duquesne Connection

Clean Plate Innovations continues to stay connected to Duquesne through the Small Business Development Center, student internship opportunities and the School of Business entrepreneurship ecosystem.

"Through the School of Business's various competitions, projects and assignments, I had the opportunity to both compete and win," Oldak said. "Developing that confidence has helped me see that I can be a difference maker."

## 2024-25 DNVC First-Place Winner

DNVC

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY  
NEW VENTURE CHALLENGE  
— 2026-2027 —

## Follow Clean Plate Innovation:

cleanplateinnovations.com @cleanplateinnovations  
clean-plate-innovations cleanplateinnovations



# Investment Strategy Institute Expands Student Opportunity



The Investment Strategy Institute has entered a new chapter, strengthening the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business' commitment to experiential learning, professional preparation and student success.

The institute is now led by John Niedenberger, executive director, and Angela Kohler, associate director and instructor of finance. Niedenberger, CFP, CFA, brings extensive experience managing portfolios and conducting security analysis for pension, endowment and wealth management funds. He also has more than four decades of teaching experience and taught in the School of Business as an adjunct professor for more than 10 years.

Kohler, CFA, brings more than 30 years of experience in institutional investment management, most recently with Federated Hermes. Her passion for education grew from training and mentoring equity analysts, which inspired her move into higher education.

Together with Jennifer Milcarek, program director and coordinator of the CFP Certification Education Program, the team

is positioning the ISI as a premier student resource for financial research, investment analysis and career preparation.

## Real-World Investment Experience

The ISI gives students access to real-time global data on stocks, bonds, futures, options and currency markets, as well as industry tools that support investment research, including Bloomberg Terminals, StockTrak, Wharton Research Data Services, Compustat, CRSP, MSCI, KLD, Morningstar, Capital IQ, Mergent, First Research and Value Line.

The institute also is home to Asset Management Group @ Duquesne and the Student-Managed Investment Funds. Through SMIF, students manage nearly \$2.2 million across three donor-created funds: the Duquesne Values Fund, Duquesne Balanced Fund and Duquesne Microcap Fund.

These experiences give students direct access to industry expertise, professional

mentorship and networking opportunities with organizations that actively recruit Duquesne business students.

Joseph Nichol B'26 said SMIF and DAMG were among the most influential parts of his college experience, and helped him secure his role as an analyst with J.P. Morgan Private Bank.

"I helped manage an investment portfolio of \$1.7 million," Nichol said. "Faculty and peers challenged my thinking, expanded my perspective, and shaped my journey."

## Connecting Students to Industry

Students connect financial theory to practice through conferences, case competitions and networking opportunities.

Kohler and Milcarek recently traveled with students to New York City for the Quinnipiac Global Asset Management Education Forum, the world's largest student-run financial conference. Donor support fully funded conference registration and travel.

While in New York, students explored corporate banking with Kevin O'Connor B'98, senior vice president of Bank of America, and wealth management with Eric Soos A'94, managing director of wealth management at UBS Financial Services. They also met with executives from Federated Hermes to discuss career paths in institutional equities management.

Closer to campus, students connect with finance professionals through the Palumbo-Donahue Career Connection: Finance and Economics Networking Event and DAMG guest speaker programs.

## Mentorship That Prepares Students

With Duquesne's 13-to-1 student-to-faculty ratio, students benefit from individualized attention and strong faculty relationships.

"We make sure students understand the material, but we also get to know them as people," Kohler said. "We care about their well-being along with their academic growth."

Faculty also help students identify career goals, secure internships and prepare for careers in financial services.

"The most satisfying parts of this position are seeing students develop professionally and academically and helping to place them in internships and jobs," Niedenberger said.

By combining personal mentorship, industry

tools and access to finance professionals, the ISI prepares students not only to understand financial markets but to lead within them.

## Strategic Goals

1 2 3 4 5

## Did you know?

The three SMIF funds were established through the generosity and vision of dedicated alumni and donors. Continued support helps sustain and grow these funds, creating even greater opportunities and impact for current and future business students.

If you are interested in making a contribution or learning more about supporting the SMIF funds, contact:

**Amanda McQuillan, Gift Officer**  
412-396-3009  
mcquillana@duq.edu





# Preparing Difference Makers for the Age of AI

Artificial intelligence is reshaping how organizations operate, innovate and create value. At the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business, AI literacy is becoming an essential part of preparing students for what comes next.

Through curriculum updates, hands-on learning and faculty development, the School is integrating AI across teaching, learning and scholarship. The goal is not only to help students use emerging tools, but to prepare them to apply technology with judgment, ethics and purpose.

### AI Across the Curriculum

The School's commitment to AI is especially visible in the Information Systems and

Technology program, where faculty have redesigned the curriculum to incorporate AI concepts, tools and applications throughout the student experience.

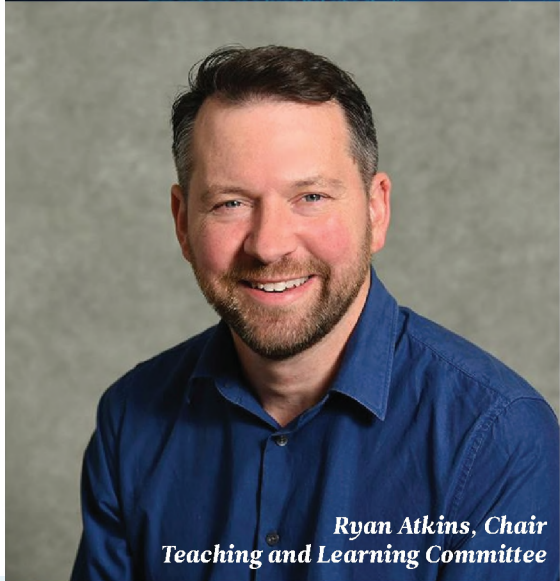
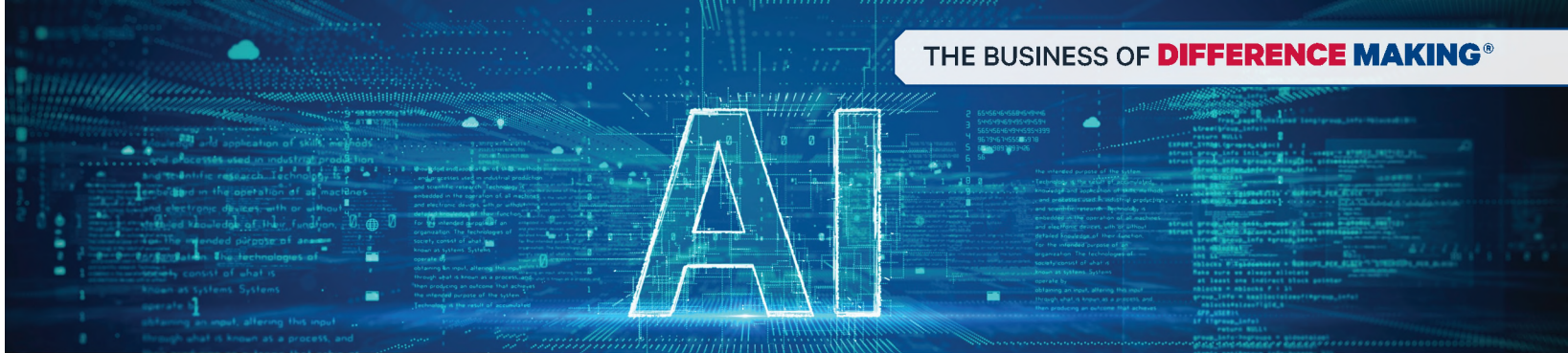
All first- and second-year business students are introduced to AI in the business core through courses such as Business Information Systems in the AI Era and Data for Decision-Making with AI. Students learn fundamental AI concepts, prompt design, AI-assisted research, business analysis and how to evaluate AI-generated outputs.

For IST majors, AI is integrated more deeply into required coursework. Courses such as User Experience Design with AI, AI-Enabled Systems Design and Data Management for AI and Analytics help students understand how emerging technologies are changing

“Business is still about people. AI can’t build trust, understand what motivates a client, or create meaningful relationships. Those are the skills that help people become effective business leaders.”

the way organizations design systems, manage information, automate workflows and support decision-making.

Advanced courses expand those skills through topics including Python for Data Analytics, Enterprise Systems, Business



Ryan Atkins, Chair  
Teaching and Learning Committee

Intelligence, and IT Security and Risk Management.

Before graduation, IST students complete the Information Systems and AI Capstone, applying their knowledge to a client-focused business problem while strengthening communication, project management and analytical skills.

### Innovation From the First Year

Every business student begins in the First-Year Innovation Experience, where AI is being incorporated as a business tool alongside ethics, critical thinking and interpersonal skills.

“Our goal is to teach students how to use AI to work more efficiently while understanding its limitations,” said Staci Offutt, FYIE instructor.

Students use AI to analyze data, research competitors, explore solutions and strengthen business concepts. At the same time, they learn to verify information, protect confidential data, evaluate sources and apply human judgment.

The course also emphasizes skills AI cannot replace. Through team-based consulting projects, students develop communication, leadership, active listening and relationship-building skills by working directly with clients and classmates.

“Business is still about people,” Offutt said. “AI can’t build trust, understand what motivates a client, or create meaningful relationships. Those are the skills that help people become effective business leaders.”

### Supporting Faculty Innovation

Faculty development is also central to the School’s AI strategy. Led by Ryan Atkins, chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, the School hosted a three-part Lunch and Learn series focused on practical AI applications in higher education.

Facilitated by Duquesne’s Center for Teaching Excellence and EdTech team, the sessions helped faculty explore AI capabilities, course design, prompt writing, assignment development and ways to guide students in evaluating AI-generated work.

By embedding AI thoughtfully across the student experience, the School is preparing graduates to use emerging technology responsibly, think critically and lead with the human judgment organizations need.

### Strategic Goals

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| Metric                              | MUSA (2023) | CASY (2024) | Better for Short-Term Loan |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Working Capital                     | -\$247,900  | -\$123,612  | CASY                       |
| Current Ratio                       | 0.74        | 0.87        | CASY                       |
| Quick Ratio                         | 0.39        | 0.49        | CASY                       |
| Accounts Receivable Turnover        | 83.58       | 97.92       | CASY                       |
| Average Days to Collect Receivables | 4.37        | 3.73        | CASY                       |
| Inventory Turnover                  | 65.29       | 26.86       | MUSA                       |
| Average Days to Sell Inventory      | 5.59        | 13.59       | ML                         |

| Metric                              | MUSA (2022) | CASY (2023) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Working Capital                     | -\$127,400  | -\$6,170    |
| Current Ratio                       | 0.85        | 0.99        |
| Quick Ratio                         | 0.59        | 0.59        |
| Accounts Receivable Turnover        | 83.58       | 97.92       |
| Average Days to Collect Receivables | 4.37        | 3.73        |
| Inventory Turnover                  | 65.29       | 26.86       |
| Average Days to Sell Inventory      | 5.59        | 13.59       |



# New Programs, New Possibilities:

## Expanding Opportunity at the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business



The Palumbo-Donahue School of Business continues to expand opportunities for students by introducing programs aligned with emerging workforce needs and changing expectations in business education.

Recent additions, including new undergraduate majors in real estate and financial planning and the redesigned Flex MBA, reflect Duquesne's commitment to helping students build the skills, credentials and confidence needed for meaningful careers.



### Real Estate: Learning in a Dynamic Industry

Launching in fall 2026, the real estate major will prepare students for career opportunities in one of the nation's largest industries. The program offers an interdisciplinary, industry-focused education that draws on the School's strengths in entrepreneurship, finance, management, accounting, taxation, law, marketing, sales and strategy.



**Patrick Sentner, Director  
Real Estate Program**

Designed in collaboration with faculty experts, industry professionals and regional business leaders, the major will help students understand the complexity of commercial and residential real estate while developing the analytical, strategic and relationship-building skills employers seek.

As the only undergraduate business program of its kind in the Pittsburgh region, Duquesne's real estate major will give students an immersive experience that goes beyond traditional coursework. Course-embedded projects will connect students

with real estate professionals and give them opportunities to address real industry challenges.

The School also appointed Patrick Sentner as the program's inaugural real estate program director. Sentner brings decades of industry experience and a broad professional network that will support student mentorship, industry partnerships and career opportunities.

A real estate minor and certificate also will launch in fall 2026, giving business and nonbusiness students additional ways to develop expertise in the field.



### Financial Planning: Preparing Trusted Advisers

In fall 2025, the School introduced a financial planning major approved by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards. The program provides a pathway to careers in wealth management, financial advising, retirement planning and investment consulting.

The curriculum is aligned with CFP Board

education requirements, allowing students to sit for the CFP exam, a leading credential in financial planning.

As financial decisions become more complex, the need for professionals who can provide ethical, informed guidance continues to grow. The financial planning major combines technical knowledge with Duquesne's emphasis on ethics and values-based decision-making, preparing graduates to help clients pursue their financial goals with confidence.

A finance minor also is available for business students who want to build additional expertise in this high-demand area.



### Flex MBA: Built for Today's Professionals

The School also redesigned its MBA program to meet the needs of working professionals. The Flex MBA offers a streamlined 33-credit curriculum with embedded certificate coursework, giving students a path to dual credentials.

Students can specialize in analytics and information management, entrepreneurship, executive leadership, finance or supply chain management. The analytics and information management, finance, and supply chain management certificates are STEM-designated.

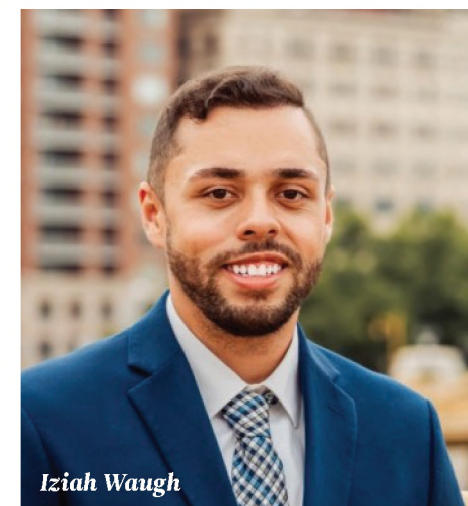
The program emphasizes leadership, strategic thinking, data-driven decision-making, communication, AI integration and analytical problem-solving.

"I chose Duquesne's Flex MBA because my career was my primary focus," said Iziah Waugh MBA'26. "I wanted a program that would fit my schedule so I could balance my full-time job."

Together, these new and redesigned programs help Duquesne business students prepare for what comes next with flexibility, purpose and a clear path forward.

### Strategic Goals

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**Iziah Waugh**

**"I chose Duquesne's Flex MBA because my career was my primary focus. I wanted a program that would fit my schedule so I could balance my full-time job."**





# Updated Programs Strengthen Career Preparation

Innovation at the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business means continually evaluating and refining programs so students receive a relevant, flexible and career-focused education.

Recent updates to undergraduate and graduate programs reflect the School's commitment to preparing students for a changing business landscape through ethical decision-making, hands-on learning and stronger connections to industry needs.

## Undergraduate Updates

As detailed in "Preparing Difference Makers for the Age of AI" on page 18, the Information Systems and Technology program has been significantly updated to integrate rapidly evolving technologies, including artificial intelligence.

Beginning in fall 2026, the management program also will introduce a redesigned curriculum with greater emphasis on ethical decision-making, responsible AI use and experiential learning.

At the center of the redesign are six core management competencies: problem-solving, collaboration, communication, professionalism, ethics as practice and leadership. The program also will add a Cornerstone-to-Capstone experiential journey, giving students opportunities to work on course-embedded projects with real corporate clients.

The number of required management courses will be reduced from six to four, giving management majors more flexibility to choose electives, pursue double majors or add minors that support their professional goals.

## Graduate Program Growth

The Master of Science in Supply Chain Management program also has been redesigned to better reflect student needs and industry trends.

The updated curriculum offers greater flexibility and customization. Two required courses were combined into one, creating

space for an additional elective. Several course titles also were revised to better reflect industry language and help students understand how the program connects to supply chain careers.

The program now offers both fall and spring starts, with students able to earn their degrees in as little as one year.

The School also redesigned its One-Year MBA program. Building on its reputation as a top-ranked "Better World MBA" by Corporate Knights magazine, the full-time, 39-credit, cohort-based program retains its sustainability focus while placing greater emphasis on career readiness, experiential learning and flexibility through elective coursework.

One-Year MBA students complete four consulting experiences, working directly with firms to address real-world sustainability challenges while developing practical leadership skills. The Global Business Study Abroad experience gives students additional opportunities to work with international companies, with recent cohorts traveling to Australia, Singapore, Vietnam, Portugal, Denmark, Italy and Croatia.

## Leadership for What's Next

Two leadership appointments further strengthen the redesigned MBA experience. Michael Corcoran MBA'95, former global director of operational sustainability at PPG Industries, joined the School as associate director of MBA experiential learning and sustainability. Afshan Khan B'85 joined as director of professional development and executive education.

Together, these updates help students build the knowledge, experience and confidence to lead with purpose in a changing business world.

### Strategic Goals

1 2 3



## Leadership for What's Next

Afshan Khan B'85 has joined the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business as director of professional development and executive education. A Duquesne alumna, entrepreneur-in-residence and adjunct professor, Khan brings leadership experience in venture investing, advanced manufacturing and global operations to support graduate students, corporate partners and executive education opportunities.



*Afshan Khan, Director  
Professional Development  
and Executive Education*



Palumbo-Donahue  
School of Business



# Beard Center Helps Business Students Find Their Path



At the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business, student success begins with relationships. Founded in 2022 through a generous gift from alumnus Eugene P. Beard B'59, MBA'61, the **Eugene P. Beard Center for Student Success** provides business students with holistic support that goes beyond traditional academic advising. The center's seven-person Student Services team includes five full-time Student Success Coaches who help students navigate their academic journey, explore opportunities and move toward bigger goals with confidence.

### Building Connections Early

Relationship-building begins before students start classes. Incoming first-year students can meet their Student Success Coach through Duquesne's First-Year Advisement Summer Transition program in July or during virtual summer sessions. During Orientation Week, the center hosts sessions designed to help students feel prepared, welcomed and connected.

At Meet the Dean, students hear from School leadership, learn more about the business student experience and are encouraged to embrace a growth mindset. During Prep for the first day of class, Student Success Coaches walk students through how to read a syllabus, navigate Duquesne systems and access key resources.

The center also recognizes that college is a transition for families. Parent and Family Orientation gives families an opportunity to hear from the Student Services team and ask questions, while the Dean's Reception allows families to meet faculty and staff in a welcoming setting.

### Support Throughout the Year

The center continues building relationships throughout the academic year through regular touch points and engagement opportunities.



BizBreaks, short informal sessions, give students a chance to connect with Student Services outside of formal advising meetings through polls, notes of encouragement and opportunities to provide feedback.

"BizBreaks are a unique engagement strategy to connect with our students outside of our typical role," said Success Coach Shakeria Carter. "The students get to interact with Coaches in a more relaxed setting that helps to build a connection that carries into our one-on-one meetings."

### Helping Students Explore

With a revised Business Core creating more room for electives, students have greater flexibility to explore their interests. The center supports that exploration through the annual DuqBiz Expo, which introduces students to majors, student organizations, study abroad opportunities and other ways to make the most of their Duquesne experience.

"I want to help students get the most out of their education," said Chris Hilf, associate director for student success. "My favorite

**"I want to help students get the most out of their education. My favorite conversations center around adding a minor or second major, studying abroad or pursuing a graduate degree at Duquesne."**

conversations center around adding a minor or second major, studying abroad, or pursuing a graduate degree at Duquesne."

### Peer Support and Belonging

Because peer support is an important part of student success, the center launched a Peer Mentor program in 2023. Peer mentors help students navigate University systems, communicate with professors, build study habits, get involved on campus and learn more about majors.

Students also can meet with tutors for support in technology- and math-heavy courses, including finance, statistics

and information systems. Business Math Tutoring Sessions offer additional support before quizzes and exams.

Looking ahead, the School of Business Living Learning Community will launch in fall 2026 in Towers Residence Hall. Designed for first-year business students, the community will support academic achievement, professional development, personal growth and belonging.

"The Living Learning Community will provide a holistic sense of support," said Success Coach Jasmine Jones-Reed.

Through coaching, mentoring and community, the Beard Center helps business students feel seen, supported and prepared to make the most of their Duquesne journey.

### Strategic Goals

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# Duquesne SBDC Expands Opportunity for Entrepreneurs

The Duquesne University Small Business Development Center is expanding its support for small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs through a new regional initiative focused on access, guidance and long-term business success.

In partnership with regional Small Business Development Centers, Duquesne's SBDC has received a \$1.6 million state grant to launch the Business Assistance Service Center (BASC). The BASC is designed to strengthen entrepreneurial success across the region by helping business owners who have faced longstanding challenges in accessing capital, networks and business resources.

## Personalized Support

Entrepreneurs enrolled in the program will have access to one-on-one business consulting, training, workshops, facilities, networking and mentorship.

Experienced consultants will provide personalized guidance in business planning, financial management, marketing strategy, operational growth planning and other areas that help entrepreneurs move their ideas and businesses forward.

Because access to funding remains one of the greatest challenges facing small businesses, the BASC also will offer support

with loan readiness, application preparation, grant identification and connections to lenders and financial institutions.

Educational programming will cover entrepreneurship fundamentals, financial literacy, cash flow management, digital marketing strategies and available business resources.

## A Regional Network

Duquesne's SBDC will coordinate the effort through a broad coalition of partners committed to entrepreneurship and economic development.



Partners include SBDCs based at other universities in Western Pennsylvania, along with the Metropolitan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Asian Chamber of Commerce, Three Rivers Business Alliance and Colorful Voices.

Together, these organizations are creating a stronger ecosystem of support that provides entrepreneurs with practical, culturally relevant and accessible resources. Through the BASC, Duquesne and its partners are helping more business owners gain the tools, connections and opportunities needed to launch, grow and sustain successful enterprises.

the highest client satisfaction score in Pennsylvania's SBDC network and is based on direct client feedback and survey results.

The SBDC's graduate assistant team also received the 2026 Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers Student Project of the Year Award for developing an AI-powered client intake and consultant assignment system that improves efficiency while maintaining personalized service.

## Strategic Goals

1 2 5

## A Year of Recognition

The BASC builds on a year of recognition for the Duquesne SBDC.

In 2026, the center received the Pennsylvania Small Business Development Centers' Happy Client Award for the second consecutive year. The recognition reflects

## A Year of Recognition and Innovation for the Duquesne University SBDC

Over the past year, Duquesne's SBDC earned several notable distinctions that reflect its commitment to helping businesses succeed while advancing new solutions for the future of small business development.

### 2026 PASBDC Happy Client Award (Second Consecutive Year)

#### Highlights:

- Highest client satisfaction score in Pennsylvania's SBDC network
- Based on direct client feedback and survey results
- Reflects the center's commitment to personalized business support

### 2026 PASBDC Student Project of the Year Award

The SBDC's Graduate Assistant Team received the Student Project of the Year Award for developing an AI-powered client intake and consultant assignment system that improves efficiency while maintaining personalized service.



# Telling the Business of Difference Making® Story

Today's students begin their college search long before they visit campus. They explore websites, videos, social media and student stories as they look for a place that reflects their goals and helps them see what is possible.

To meet those expectations, the Palumbo-Donahue School of Business has invested in a comprehensive marketing and communications strategy that better shares the School's story, strengthens its brand and supports recruitment.

Since 2024, under the leadership of Tricia Brancolini-Foley MS'01, program director of marketing and communication, the School has partnered with Duquesne University's Division of Marketing and Communications to create a unified brand centered on its signature Business of Difference Making® message.

## A Stronger Brand Experience

The initiative began with a refreshed visual identity, updated logo, vibrant color palette, stronger messaging and clearer calls to action. The brand now extends across nearly every student touchpoint.

Undergraduate and graduate viewbooks were rewritten and redesigned to highlight experiential learning, academic excellence, career outcomes and student success stories. Curriculum guides also were reimagined to give prospective students a clearer picture of academic pathways and employment opportunities.

The School's website has undergone a significant transformation with updated content, refreshed photography, improved navigation, student testimonials and search strategies that help prospective students discover Duquesne.

## Digital Storytelling With Purpose

Digital marketing efforts also have expanded through social media, video content, digital advertising and consistent storytelling. These efforts showcase students, faculty, alumni, programs, and corporate and community partnerships while helping prospective students better understand the Duquesne business experience.

To support graduate enrollment, the School has increased investment in targeted digital advertising, sponsored content, program features on graduate education websites, regional placements and radio advertising.

At the University level, Duquesne's Marketing and Communications team continues to elevate the School's reputation through student stories, faculty interviews, thought leadership articles and media appearances that position faculty as experts on current business issues.

## Showing Students What Is Possible

Authentic storytelling has become a key recruitment tool. New print materials include QR codes linking directly to student videos, giving prospective students firsthand perspectives on life in the School of Business.

Behind the scenes, marketing operations have been centralized to ensure consistency across communications. Annual professional photography sessions capture authentic student experiences in classrooms, experiential learning spaces, across campus and throughout the city.

Alongside Brancolini-Foley, Amanda Venglish B'19, marketing and communications coordinator, and Andy Cummings A'23, multimedia communications specialist, help bring the School's story to life through written and visual content.

Together, these efforts reflect a strategic commitment to brand, storytelling, recruitment and reputation-building, ensuring the value of a Duquesne business education is reflected in every interaction with the School.

## Strategic Goals

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# Executives in Residence: Bringing Business Experience Into the Classroom

## Industry leaders. Classroom mentors. Real-world perspective.

The Executive-in-Residence (EIR) program allows students to learn from seasoned business leaders with remarkable career accomplishments.

EIRs contribute valuable insights to curriculum development, expanding corporate engagements, and enhancing experiential learning. Some also serve on **Palumbo-Donahue School of Business Advisory Councils**. These efforts directly

support our priority of providing in-demand educational programs that set our graduates apart.

EIRs teach a variety of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels:



EIRs teach a variety of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels:

- Accounting
- Business Analytics and Information Systems
- Community Engagement
- Entrepreneurship
- Executive Insights and Strategic Planning
- Finance and Investing
- Leadership
- Management
- Marketing
- Sustainability



**Jim Byrne**  
Former Director,  
Lennox  
EIR, Strategic Planning  
and Executive Insights



**Robert Mallet**  
Former president and  
CEO of Mallet and  
Company Incorporated  
EIR, International  
management and  
entrepreneurship



**Jeff Salvatore,  
B'88**  
Partner and Vice  
Chairman of the Board,  
Deloitte & Touche LLP  
EIR, Accounting



**Mike Corcoran**  
Associate Director  
for MBA Experiential  
Learning &  
Sustainability  
EIR, Sustainability



**Justin Mallgrave**  
VP, IT Transformation,  
Excelitas  
EIR, Business analytics  
and information  
systems



**David R. Warco  
B'79**  
Former international  
tax partner, Deloitte &  
Touche LLP  
EIR, Accounting and  
management



**John Gentner**  
Former VP,  
Institutional  
Investments, Fifth  
Third Securities  
EIR, Marketing and  
management



**John McMurtry,  
MAcc'85**  
Former Principal,  
Clifton Larson Allen  
LLP, Pittsburgh  
EIR, Entrepreneurship



**Afshan Khan**  
Portfolio Executive,  
Hardware sector,  
Innovation Works  
EIR, Entrepreneurship



**Joseph Rockey  
B'86**  
Former Chief Risk  
Officer and EVP, PNC  
Financial Services  
Group  
EIR

Learn more  
about the  
Executives  
in Residence  
program



View the full list of executives,  
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[duq.edu/business](https://duq.edu/business)  
[business@duq.edu](mailto:business@duq.edu)  
412.396.5702



### The Power of Corporate Engagement

Corporate partnerships do more than connect students with employers. They bring business education to life. **Read more about Duquesne's corporate partnerships on page 10.**