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Enterprises Bring Real World Up Close; Create Value for Local Firms

Enriching education with practical experience often means extending learning beyond the walls of a classroom. Through a leading-edge program pairing MBA students with central Indiana companies, Kelley offers a unique opportunity for all involved to benefit. The school's "enterprises" engage Evening MBA students in strategic assignments with local firms during their second year of study.

"The projects that are part of our enterprise programs play an important role in the larger mission of the Kelley School in that they help us serve the needs of the regional business community," says Dan Smith, dean of the Kelley School. "These are win-win partnerships where students benefit from hands-on learning and local businesses benefit by having the assistance of extraordinary talent."

Patterned after Kelley's academy program in Bloomington, Indianapolis' enterprise endeavor, now entering its second year, boasts collaborations with companies such as FedEx, Celadon, Duke Realty, Traders Point Creamery and PERF (Public Employees' Retirement Fund). Nearly half of Kelley's Evening MBA students are participating in one of three enterprises:

- **Discovery, Innovation and Ventures Enterprise (DIVE)** – Focusing on entrepreneurialships, this program connects students with start-up companies for in-depth consulting projects.
- **Global Supply Chain Innovation Enterprise (gSCIE)** – With access to leading distribution logistics companies, students address local firms' supply chain challenges.
- **Finance Development Enterprise (FIND)** – In addition to consulting on finance-related projects, students will eventually manage a Kelley School investment fund, currently being capitalized.

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DAN SMITH
DEAN, KELLEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

"By lending the expertise of trained MBA students and nationally recognized faculty, we're able to deliver tremendous value to participating companies, while at the same time building Kelley's relationships with regional businesses," says Phil Powell, faculty chair of the Evening MBA program. "Our students walk away with relevant real-world experience on high-level, strategic projects—often in industries other than their own."

"My gSCIE projects offer a drastically different and valuable perspective," says Joe Williams, director of engineering for Wolfe and Swickard and a Kelley MBA student. "Being an engineer, I never would have worked with supply chain vendors or inventory. The knowledge I've gained of other sides of the business have helped me understand the whole even better."

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Indiana University Kelley School of Business Indianapolis | 801 W. Michigan Street | Indianapolis, IN 46202 | 317-274-2147 | Copyright © 2013, The Trustees of Indiana University