MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

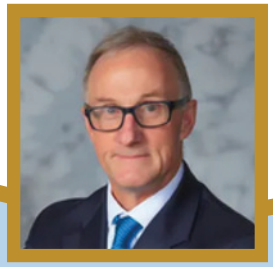


ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2025 – 2026

The Dean's Message

JIM PIERSON, DEAN, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



The 2025-2026 academic year brought new levels of achievement and development for our College of Business students through engaging educational and professional experiences that are highlighted in this Annual Report. Innovation and foundational functional excellence was pursued and achieved by our business students in state (Harrisburg, PA) and national (Las Vegas, NV) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competition, and regionally in Northeastern, PA, in our tecBRIDGE business plan competition, where our student Brady Quinn was a $5,000 winner of the wild card award for his business venture, *Mat Attack*.

Please also see the articles regarding the thought leaders engaging with our business students on campus. This year, the guest lecturer for for our Mark J. and Lorraine S. Alles distinguished speaker series was the co-founder and editor-in-chief emeritus of Bloomberg News, Matthew Winkler. We also had a Philadelphia federal reserve economist visiting our economics classes and sharing his economic insights. We were also very honored that the featured student speaker at the May 2026 undergraduate commencement was Jennifer Milisits, a COB accounting major with a minor in information science.

Road trips by MU business students were many as well. Our Business Scholars and Leaders cohort visited Bloomberg News headquarters in New York City in the fall and Gentex Manufacturing facilities in Northeastern, PA in the spring, and our healthcare students participated in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) 29th Annual Healthcare Symposium in Scranton, PA. Our Sport Management Association students were very busy participating in sport event operations at the Philadelphia Marathon in the fall, the Fiesta Bowl in Arizona in January, and at the National Football League (NFL) draft in April in Pittsburgh).

Additionally, see also the other important initiatives being undertaken by the College of Business as part of the Center for Workforce Development and Talent Solutions, our Misericordia University Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, and the interaction and support of our Business Advisory Council.

As I prepare to move on to the next chapter of my life, please know It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as the dean of the college of Business at Misericordia University these last four years. The energy, the intellectual vigor, the excitement of engaging our students with the business community, faculty, alumni, and friends of the University, is what makes Misericordia University College of Business a special place. We are also distinguished at the College of Business by our mission of developing values-driven business leaders prepared to serve the common good and pursue lives of purpose in their workplaces and communities. We are grounded in our core values of continuous improvement in learning, leading change, innovation, integrity in conduct, service to the community, and serving the common ground.

The work continues, as there is much excellent work, service and innovation yet to be done by our future business leaders and the Misericordia community at the College of Business. Please provide our incoming business dean, Dr. Todd Shawver, your full support as he tackles new areas of growth and opportunity. Onward my students and friends, ***Carpe Diem!***

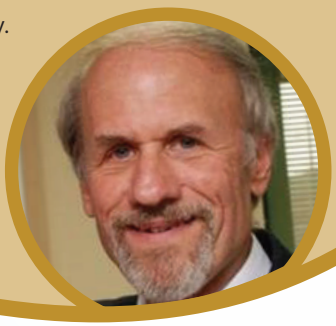
Scan to find out more about Misericordia University's Business Program.

In Memoriam

RONALD V. PETRILLA, PH.D.

In this past academic year, we lost a beloved professor and colleague with the passing of **Ronald Vincent Petrilla, Ph.D.** of Hazleton, PA, on January 7, 2026. Dr. Petrilla was a long-time adjunct professor, beginning his service to the College of Business in 1998, and joining the faculty as a full-time assistant professor in healthcare administration in 2013. Dr. Petrilla continued teaching full-time until May 2024, and was teaching part-time thereafter up until fall 2025. Prior to joining the faculty full-time, Ron was an outstanding leader in the non-profit world, where he served for 35 years as the Executive Director of the Hazleton and Greater Wilkes-Barre Associations for the Blind.

Dr. Petrilla will be remembered for his passion for education and his unwavering dedication to his students, the community he served, and his family. He will also be remembered for his steadfast optimism and deep friendship to all. We are so grateful for his impact of service at Misericordia University.





May 9th, Undergraduate Commencement Featured *College of Business* Student **Jennifer Millisits**

Jennifer Milisits, a COB accounting major with a minor in information science, earned the honor of being the featured student speaker during the undergraduate commencement ceremony in May. The student speaker is selected based on outstanding academic performance.

In reflecting on her journey, Jennifer observed that "Looking back, choosing Misericordia University was one of the best decisions I could have made. My experience in the College of Business provided me with a strong academic foundation, meaningful relationships, and the confidence to pursue my future goals. One of the most impactful parts of my journey was the support and mentorship I received from the faculty. Professor Croop and Professor Karnish played a significant role in my development, offering guidance and encouragement throughout my studies. Their dedication reflects the genuine commitment that Misericordia professors have to student success"

Jennifer is the first commencement speaker from the College of Business in recent history, and in commenting on her selection in a highly competitive process, remarked that "one of the greatest honors of my college career was being selected as the undergraduate commencement speaker. Having the opportunity to represent my classmates on such an important day was both humbling and exciting."

Jennifer will continue as a student at Misericordia as she will be pursuing a Master of Business Administration degree with an Accounting Specialization while serving as a graduate assistant in Misericordia's IT Department. In the future, she plans to attend law school and pursue a career that combines her passion for problem-solving and advocacy. Jennifer noted that "Misericordia University has provided me with an outstanding education, lifelong friendships, and countless growth opportunities. I am grateful for the experiences that have shaped me and proud to call myself a Misericordia alumnus."

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Mark J. and Lorraine S. Alles

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Inspiring Students in

Leadership | Entrepreneurship
Communications | Innovation

The Mark J. and Lorraine S. Alles Distinguished Speaker Series, a highlight event of the Misericordia University College of Business was very honored to host **Matthew Winkler**, co-founder and editor-in-chief emeritus of Bloomberg News, for his lecture, ***The Bloomberg News Story***, on March 11, 2026.

The Mark J. and Lorraine S. Alles Distinguished Speaker Series was developed to inform, enlighten, inspire, and prepare students to live a life of consequence and to make a difference in the world around them. In keeping with that spirit, Matthew Winkler provided a very insightful and engaging lecture to over 130 students, faculty and staff in the packed McGowan Room of the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library on entrepreneurship, leadership, journalism and the evolution of global news.





March 11th, Distinguished Speaker Series featuring Matthew Winkler

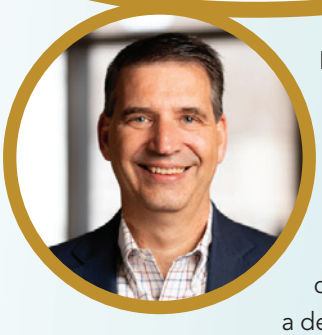
Winkler, who co-founded Bloomberg News in 1990 with Michael Bloomberg, shared insights into building one of the world's most influential financial news organizations. Over his 25-year tenure leading the newsroom, Bloomberg News expanded to more than 2,700 journalists across over 150 bureaus worldwide, producing thousands of stories daily.

During his presentation, Winkler discussed the challenges and opportunities of launching a global media enterprise, emphasizing the importance of accuracy, speed, and accountability in today's fast-moving information landscape. He also reflected on leadership during times of financial and geopolitical uncertainty and the critical role journalism plays in informing decision-making. In keeping with the Bloomberg Way of predicating news on a factual basis, his presentation included many slides presenting historical changes in key economic indicators and insights derived from the business data in areas such as job creation, the difficulty Americans are finding in obtaining a job, the Black unemployment rate, as well as local economic data such as Scranton's jobless rate. The event concluded with a lively question and answer session with Matthew Winkler on topics ranging from media credibility to career pathways in business and journalism.

The Mark J. and Lorraine S. Alles Distinguished Speaker Series continues to bring accomplished leaders to Misericordia University, offering students valuable real-world perspectives and opportunities for professional growth.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Gary Karnish and Michelle Conway



For **Gary Karnish**, the path to the classroom began long before he joined the faculty at Misericordia University. It started with a passion for business, continuous learning, and a desire to mentor the next generation of leaders.

Karnish earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and an MBA in Finance from Lehigh University before obtaining his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation. He began his career with Coopers & Lybrand (now PwC), where he developed the technical expertise in accounting, auditing, financial reporting, and professional ethics that would serve as the cornerstone of his career.

Over the next 30 years, Karnish held a variety of financial and executive leadership positions, ultimately serving as Chief Financial Officer and later Chief Executive Officer of Silberline Manufacturing Company. His experience included strategic planning, acquisitions, international business development, financial management, and leading a global organization with operations across North America, Europe, Asia, and South America.

After decades in business leadership, Karnish chose to pursue a second career in higher education. "When I reached a point where I could choose what I wanted to do next, I realized that teaching offered an opportunity to make a lasting impact," he said. "Helping students develop the skills, confidence, and professional mindset needed for success is incredibly rewarding."

Today, Karnish brings those real-world experiences into the classroom, using practical examples and mentorship to help students connect theory with business practice and prepare for ethical leadership in a global economy. He also serves as a mentor in the Business Scholars and Leaders program and remains active in regional business and nonprofit leadership. Committed to lifelong learning, he is currently pursuing a Doctor of Business Administration degree at Temple University's Fox School of Business, where his research focuses on the economic impact of warehouse industry expansion on rural communities.

"I've been fortunate to learn from outstanding colleagues, mentors, and leaders throughout my career," Karnish reflected. "Now I have the privilege of sharing those experiences with students and helping them discover what is possible for their own futures."



Michelle Conway successfully defended her dissertation and completed her Ph.D. in Corporate Leadership from Alvernia University in 2026. Her dissertation, titled *Living to Work or Working to Live: A Global Perspective on Work Centrality and Life Satisfaction*, explores theoretically driven predictors of life satisfaction and the impact of work centrality, or the perceived value of work, on overall life satisfaction. Congratulations, Dr. Conway!

FACULTY/STUDENT TRIP

Federal Reserve Breakfast at Penn State Wilkes-Barre and Visit to Misericordia University Economics Classes

Faculty, students, and community members gathered at Penn State Wilkes-Barre for the Annual 2025 Federal Reserve Breakfast, an event focused on examining current economic conditions and trends shaping both the national and regional economy. The featured speaker, **Ryotaro (Ryo) Tashiro**, delivered an insightful economic update and forecast on behalf of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Tashiro's presentation highlighted key economic indicators influencing the nation's financial outlook, including inflation trends, labor market conditions, consumer spending, interest rates, and the continuing challenges facing businesses and households in a changing economic environment. He also discussed the role of the Federal Reserve in balancing economic growth and price stability, while offering perspectives on how current policy decisions may impact businesses, consumers, and future market conditions.

In addition to addressing attendees at the breakfast, Tashiro visited **Dr. Cupidon's** economics classes in spring 2026, where he engaged directly with students in a discussion about the practical impact of monetary policy and economic decision-making on businesses and everyday consumers. Students had the opportunity to learn firsthand how economic data is analyzed at the national level and how Federal Reserve policies influence borrowing, employment, investment, and overall economic activity.



BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL



We are very fortunate to have a business advisory council comprised of alumni and supporters of the College of Business that bring strong leadership experience in key industry and functional domains. Areas of expertise include sales, accounting, financial services, operations, supply chain, sport management, entrepreneurship and nonprofit leadership.

The Business Advisory Council conducted a half-day strategic planning session in AY 2025–2026 to clarify the role of the Business Advisory Council (BAC), develop strategic options for innovation and relationship building, and define approaches to strengthen fundraising and support workforce initiatives. The beginning of this journey resulted in promising approaches to broaden our community and relationship building and ways we can align our workforce initiatives to meet the needs of employers and workers in our region.

The event was followed by a dinner at the Irem clubhouse, where select members of the Misericordia University Board of Trustees joined the event to get to know our council members better and express their gratitude for their service. We value the contributions of our Business Advisory Council and look forward to future collaboration in growing the College of Business.

STUDENT CLUBS



BUSINESS SCHOLARS AND LEADERS: 2025 Milford Readers and Writers Festival

Misericordia University students from the Honors Program and the College of Business participated in the 2025 Milford Readers and Writers Festival in Milford, Pennsylvania, spending a beautiful fall Saturday on September 19, 2025, engaging with distinguished authors, journalists, and industry leaders. The group was accompanied by Honor Society Advisors **Dr. Brian Carso** and **Dr. Joe Curran**, along with College of Business **Dean Jim Pierson**.

This year's festival featured a dynamic lineup of sessions spanning investigative journalism, global business, screenwriting, and contemporary fiction. Highlights included "The Man Behind Bloomberg," an in-depth interview with **Matthew Winkler**, editor-in-chief emeritus and co-founder of Bloomberg News. Moderated by Barron's Editorial Director **Phil Roosevelt**, the session explored Winkler's leadership of the global news organization he helped launch in 1990.

Students also attended "Scoundrels and Conmen," a compelling discussion featuring investigative journalist **Richard Behar** and moderated by acclaimed author and former Forbes European Bureau Chief **Richard Morais**. Behar reflected on his recent book, *Madoff, the Final Word*, and shared insights from his renowned career covering major events such as the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and New York's organized crime networks.

Adding a creative dimension to the day, attendees enjoyed a session with **Jeff Arch**, the Harrisburg native and screenwriter behind *Sleepless in Seattle*. His talk, "Sleepless in Pennsylvania," explored screenwriting craft, storytelling, and his transition into novel writing. The festival concluded with "Tiramisu for the Soul," a lively conversation with bestselling author **Adriana Trigiani**, who discussed her novel *The View from Lake Como* and how her Italian heritage shapes her writing.

"The Milford Readers and Writers Festival provides our students with meaningful opportunities to interact directly with leaders in journalism, literature, and business," said Dean Pierson. "Experiences like these broaden their perspectives and help bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world expertise."

The Misericordia University Honors Program and College of Business look forward to continuing this tradition of engaging with prominent voices in media, literature, and business at future festivals and events.

BUSINESS SCHOLARS AND LEADERS:

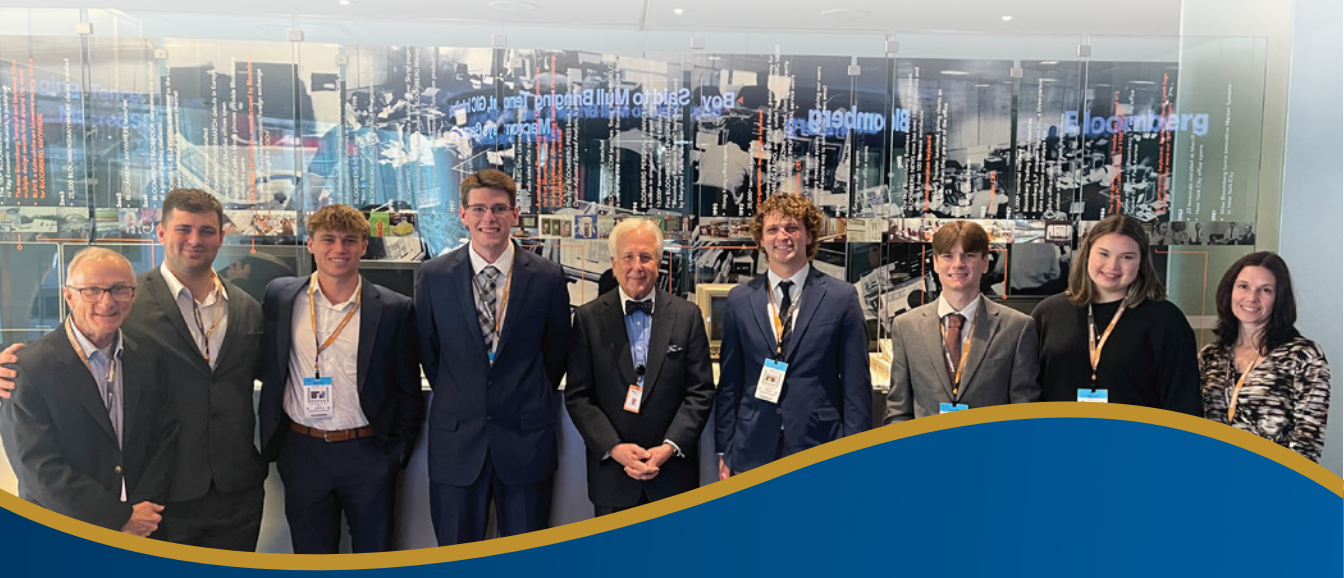
Visit Bloomberg Headquarters in New York City

On November 18, 2025, the Business Scholars and Leaders cohort traveled to Bloomberg in New York City for an educational experience focused on innovation and financial technology. The visit provided students with a unique opportunity to engage directly with industry professionals and gain firsthand exposure to one of the world's leading providers of financial news, market data, and analytics.

Led by Thomas Murray, Senior Enterprise Relationship Manager, the experience introduced students to the evolving capabilities of the Bloomberg Terminal, a platform used by financial professionals across investment banking, corporate finance, and global markets. Through a live demonstration, students observed how the Terminal delivers real-time market data and breaking financial news that drive decision-making in today's fast-paced financial environment.

The visit also included a guided tour of Bloomberg's headquarters, where students explored the company's history, culture, and commitment to innovation. Highlights of the tour included exhibits detailing the evolution of the Bloomberg Terminal and behind-the-scenes access to Bloomberg's radio and television production studios, where global financial news is broadcast daily to audiences around the world.

A particularly memorable component of the experience came from Bloomberg News co-founder and editor-in-chief emeritus Matthew Winkler, who personally came down to the news floor to meet the Misericordia students and share insights from his journalism and media career. Winkler spoke about the principles that have shaped Bloomberg's reporting philosophy, known internally as the "Bloomberg Way" and its "Five Fs": factual word, first word, fastest word, final word, and future word. His comments emphasized the importance of accuracy, speed, innovation, and forward-thinking in business journalism and global communications. Students also had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in meaningful dialogue about leadership, ethics, media, and the evolving financial landscape.



BUSINESS SCHOLARS AND LEADERS:

Visit Gentex Manufacturing Facility in Northeastern, PA

The College of Business's Business Scholars and Leaders cohort went on an experiential learning visit on March 31, 2026, to the headquarters and manufacturing facility of Gentex Corporation, where students gained valuable exposure to leadership, manufacturing operations, and innovation within a globally recognized organization. As a leading manufacturer of advanced protective and military equipment, Gentex provided students with a unique opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world business practices in a highly specialized industry.

Throughout the visit, students engaged directly with members of the company's senior leadership team, including the chief executive officer, chief financial officer, chief operating officer, and chief people officer. During a presentation and interactive question-and-answer session, company leaders shared insights into strategic decision-making, organizational leadership, and the challenges of operating in an increasingly competitive and rapidly evolving global market. Discussions also emphasized the importance of innovation, collaboration, and adaptability in sustaining long-term growth and operational excellence.

In addition to meeting with leadership, students toured Gentex's production facilities, where they observed the manufacturing lifecycle of critical protective equipment, including advanced military helmets and related systems used by military and emergency response personnel. The tour offered a comprehensive look at the company's operational processes, from product design and engineering to manufacturing, quality assurance, final assembly, and distribution. Students witnessed firsthand the precision, technology, and quality standards required to produce equipment designed for high-performance and mission-critical environments.



HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION CLUB:

Misericordia Student Healthcare Chapter attends event at DeSales University

Dr. John Ash led students from the COB Healthcare program to DeSales University for an engaging professional speaker and networking event focused on today's healthcare landscape.

Throughout the day, students participated in four in-depth speaker sessions covering key topics such as the current financial state of healthcare, the expanding role of artificial intelligence, and strategies for building strong leadership and effective systems within the industry.

The event also featured an interactive fireside chat and concluded with a networking session, allowing students to connect with professionals while applying what they learned outside the classroom.



Misericordia Student Healthcare Chapter attends Scranton Healthcare Symposium

A contingent of eight members of the Misericordia University Student Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) recently attended the 29th Annual Healthcare Symposium at the University of Scranton in March, 2026. The theme for this year's symposium, "From Collaboration to Care: The Power of High-Performing Healthcare Teams," brought together students, faculty, and industry leaders to discuss the latest trends, challenges, and innovations in healthcare. Accompanying the students was **Dr. John R. Ash**, FACHE, Associate Professor and Program Director for Healthcare Administration at Misericordia University.

The symposium offered students an invaluable opportunity to engage with professionals, participate in panel discussions, and explore emerging technologies reshaping the healthcare landscape. Keynote speakers included prominent figures in healthcare policy, medical research, and technology development from Jefferson Health, Risant Health, Allied Services Integrated Health, Fox Chase Cancer Center, and the Wright Center for Community Health.

"This experience not only broadened our students' understanding of current healthcare issues but also inspired them to think critically about their roles as future healthcare professionals and the importance of using high-performing teams in patient care and organizational decision-making," said Ash.

The event also offered networking opportunities, allowing students to connect with peers and leaders across various healthcare sectors and to foster meaningful relationships that may contribute to their professional growth.

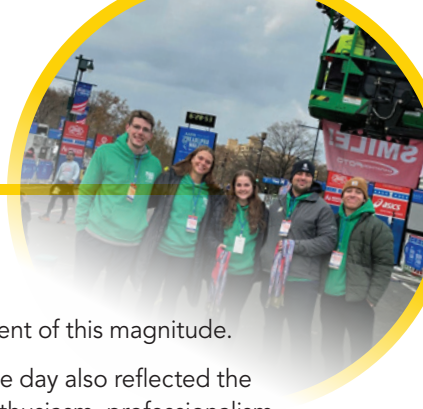
Misericordia University's College of Business remains committed to providing its students with enriching experiences that enhance their education and prepare them for successful careers in healthcare and business.



Student Clubs

SPORT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:

Provides Event Support at the Philadelphia Marathon



Members of the Misericordia University Sport Management Association traveled to Philadelphia in November 2025 to provide volunteer event support at the Philadelphia Marathon.

Positioned at the finish line throughout the day, students played an important role in recognizing participants' accomplishments by distributing medals to runners as they completed the marathon. With more than 10,000 runners taking to the streets of Philadelphia, the event brought together athletes, spectators, sponsors, volunteers, and event professionals in a large-scale showcase of endurance sports and event management.

For students in the Sport Management Association, the experience extended beyond volunteer service. The opportunity allowed them to observe the coordination, logistics, and operational planning required to execute a major sporting event successfully. From crowd management and participant services to sponsor engagement and event flow, students witnessed firsthand the many moving parts involved in producing an event of this magnitude.

The day also reflected the enthusiasm, professionalism, and school spirit of Misericordia students, whose energy helped create a memorable finish-line experience for participants. Through opportunities such as the Philadelphia Marathon, students continue to connect classroom concepts with practical industry experience while building professional skills and networks within the sport management field.

SMA Heads to Arizona and Participates at Fiesta Bowl and Attends Other Professional Events

The Misericordia University Sport Management Association (SMA) recently traveled to Phoenix, Arizona, in early January 2026, for a professional development experience that provided students with hands-on learning opportunities at some of the nation's premier sports and entertainment venues. The highlight of the trip was volunteering at the College Football Playoff Semifinal Vrbo Fiesta Bowl, one of college football's most anticipated postseason events.

The trip mixed meaningful career development with memorable recreational experiences. While in Arizona, students connected with Misericordia alumnus **Austin Zawicki** of the Fiesta Sports Foundation, who shared insights into his career path and professional growth within the sport industry. The group also toured the Fiesta Bowl Museum, gaining a behind-the-scenes look at the history and operations of one of college football's most historic bowl games.

Students further expanded their professional network through a visit with representatives from Oak View Group, who provided an in-depth tour of Arizona State University's state-of-the-art athletic facilities and discussed opportunities within sports and event management.

The highlight of the trip took place at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, where students served as volunteer leads for Guest Services and Information Centers during the Vrbo Fiesta Bowl. Students played a critical role in directing fans and guests throughout game day ancillary events, offering real-world exposure to large-scale event operations in a fast-paced, high-energy environment.

In addition to their professional experiences, students attended an NBA matchup between the New York Knicks (and future NBA Champions) and Phoenix Suns, and toured Chase Field, home of Major League Baseball's Arizona Diamondbacks, further broadening their understanding of professional sports venues and operations.

Student Clubs

SPORT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:

SMA Participate in Event Support for the NFL Draft

A highly charged group of eight members of the Misericordia University Sport Management Association traveled to Pittsburgh in April 2026, to take part in one of the largest sporting events in the country, the 2026 NFL Draft. The three-day experience placed students in the center of a nationally recognized event that drew more than 800,000 visitors to the city throughout Draft weekend.

Working alongside event personnel and NFL staff, students served as guest experience volunteers across several fan engagement areas and interactive activations. Their responsibilities included assisting attendees at the Autograph Stage, supporting operations within the NFL+ Lounge, contributing to community-focused initiatives with St. Jude activations, and helping ensure a positive experience for fans throughout the event. The opportunity allowed students to operate within a fast-paced environment while representing Misericordia University on a national stage.

While in Pittsburgh, students also visited the Heinz History Center, where they explored exhibits highlighting the region's deep sports history and cultural significance. The visit added another educational dimension to the trip, connecting the business of sports with the traditions and stories that continue to shape the industry.

The NFL Draft experience represented a significant professional development opportunity for members of the Sport Management Association, reinforcing the commitment of the College of Business to experiential learning that prepares students for careers in the sports industry.



FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA (FBLA)

Misericordia Business Students are Winners at the 2026 State and National Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Competition!

The Misericordia University College of Business had outstanding performances at the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) state competition in Harrisburg, PA, in late March 2026, and at nationals in Las Vegas, NV based on the state performances. Based on their outstanding efforts at state, a contingent of Misericordia students advanced on to participate in the national competition held in Las Vegas, Nevada, in early June, 2026. The Future Business Leaders of America is the largest student business career and technical student organization in the world, and its mission is to empower future leaders through education, innovation, and community.

The Misericordia University FBLA chapter is mentored by faculty advisor Dr. Michelle Conway, and this year's winners in various foundation objective tests or case studies include the following:





FBLA PENNSYLVANIA COMPETITION MISERICORDIA WINNERS:

1st Place: Business Ethics Case Study
Kaitlyn Marley and **Hannah Werle**

1st Place: Customer Service Presentation
Kaitlyn Marley

1st Place: Foundations of Management
Nadia Peimany

1st Place: Foundations of Marketing
Nadia Peimany

1st Place: Foundations of Entrepreneurship
Deven Hazlak

2nd Place: Foundations of Hospitality Management
Dylan Ramirez

4th Place: Foundations of Entrepreneurship
Alyssa Evans

FBLA NATIONAL COMPETITION MISERICORDIA WINNERS:

6th Place in Foundations of Entrepreneurship: **Deven Hazlak**

9th Place in Foundations of Hospitality Management: **Dylan Ramirez**

Special Recognition for Passing the Southwest Airlines Professional Communications Certificate Program: **Deven Hazlak** and **Dylan Ramirez**

CAMPUS EVENTS

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ANNUAL SIGMA BETA DELTA Induction Ceremony and Awards Event for New 2026–2027 Business Scholars and Leaders Cohort

The College of Business celebrated its annual Sigma Beta Delta Induction Ceremony and Awards Event on April 23, 2026. New members and awardees, along with their families, friends and faculty members were in attendance for the induction ceremony, awards events, and celebration dinner, with over 80 participants in attendance.

Bill Jones, '85, a member of the Misericordia University Board of Trustees, MU alumnus, and long-time leader in business and community-service nonprofit organizations in Northeastern Pennsylvania, was the recipient of the honorary member award and served as the evening's guest speaker.

NEW SIGMA BETA DELTA INDUCTEES

Candace Apostolou
Samantha Bardonner
Emma Blaszczak
Patrick Brown
Joshua Burger
Owen Cordner
Patrick Dwyer
James Eng
Amy Fago
Caelan Gallagher
John Gallagher
Joseph Horne
Casandra Leschinsky
Connor McGee
Garrett McIlhenney
Lachlan Messner
Charleigh Miner
Nadia Peimany
Alexis Phillips
Glenn Sadler
Kyle Sincavage
Victoria Spaciano
Victoria Tinari
Brendan Vettraino



The Sigma Beta Delta honor society's name and purpose is derived from the three Greek words, Sigma (wisdom), Beta (honor), and Delta (pursuit of meaningful aspirations), and is an international honor society to recognize outstanding students in business, management and administration. Qualifying criteria include being ranked in the top 20% of their class academically, and to be nominated by their faculty officers of the local chapter.

The awards event also included recognition of the new 2026–2027 Misericordia University Business Scholars and Leaders Cohort. The students are responsible to assist as mentors to other business students, serve as ambassadors to the College of Business, and are expected to conduct research and/or participate in business plan competition to gain meaningful research and applied learning skills. Selection into the program is limited and competitive. Mr. **Gary Karnish**, MBA, CPA, oversees the program and activities, and serves as the faculty advisor.

NEW COHORT OF BUSINESS SCHOLARS AND LEADERS

Cassie Kern
Keira McCaffrey

Mark Purrington
Antoine Robidoux-Hurtubise

Glenn Sadler
William Troiano
Jacob Warburton



University Awards Night

Connor McGee & Jennifer Elizabeth Milisits – Accounting graduates Connor McGee and Jennifer Milisits were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements and leadership. Both were members of the selective Business Scholars Program and inducted into the Sigma Beta Delta Business Honor Society. Connor served as Student Government treasurer, completed an internship with J.H. Williams CPA, and plans to pursue an MBA and CPA licensure. Jennifer, a scholar-athlete and Peer Tutor of the Year, completed internships with Historic Bethlehem Museums and Selective Insurance and will pursue her MBA while serving as a graduate assistant in Misericordia's IT Department.

Camille Mann – Mary Ann Thompson Award – Camille Mann earned a degree in Business Administration with a specialization in Marketing and minors in Mass Communications and Design. An honors student and campus leader, she completed multiple internships and has accepted a position as a Workforce Development Specialist with St. Luke's University Health Network.

Daniel D'Amato – Business Faculty Award – Daniel D'Amato graduated with a degree in Business Economics and a minor in Accounting. A college honors student, lacrosse captain, volunteer tax preparer, and entrepreneur, he plans to focus on expanding his business, Moonlit Mansions LLC, following graduation.

Jason R. Giamborne – Excellence in Sport Management Award – Jason Giamborne earned his degree in Sport Management while excelling academically and completing internships with several professional sports organizations and the Misericordia Athletic Department. He has accepted a Sales and Estimating position with AME, Inc.



Misericordia University Low Income Taxpayer Clinic and Visit by the Pennsylvania Taxpayer Rights Advocate

The Misericordia Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) advances the College of Business mission of serving the common good and by advancing service and justice in the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy charisms. The Misericordia LITC, which is supported by the University, matching federal grant funds from the Internal Revenue Service and through a Pennsylvania Department of Revenue service work order, provides free tax representation, education and advocacy services on behalf of low-income taxpayers in Northeastern, PA.

The clinic is overseen by the Clinic Director, **Dean Jim Pierson**, J.D., CPA, and Tax Specialist Richard Brogan, MBA, MS (Tax), Enrolled Agent, and is staffed through students in a tax practicum course on Special Tax Topics related to tax procedure and common substantive areas of controversy. Cases include examples such as filing returns (which represent claims) on behalf of adults in custody related to COVID economic stimulus payments, collection cases, family credits (earned income credits, child care credits), and self-employed business issues.

In the past year, we were also visited by the Taxpayer Advocate for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Vincent Pease, who spoke to one of our accounting courses about common tax issues and career opportunities. The visit was part of the Department of Revenue's broader outreach efforts to educate future tax professionals and strengthen partnerships with academic institutions that play a meaningful role in improving taxpayer assistance across the Commonwealth.

The event was also attended by **Dr. Fred Croop**, Accounting Program Chair, Instructor **Gary Karnish**, MBA, CPA, **Richard Brogan**, Tax Specialist, and **Selena Popek**, from the College of Business.

Campus Events

24th Annual tecBRIDGE Business Plan Competition hosted at Misericordia University





Misericordia University was honored to host the 24th Annual tecBRIDGE Business Plan Competition on April 16, 2026, which welcomes student innovators and emerging entrepreneurs from across the region for a showcase of entrepreneurship, creativity, and strategic business development. The annual event highlighted the growing culture of innovation within northeastern Pennsylvania while giving participants the opportunity to present original business concepts before a panel of judges, business leaders, and community members.

The competition featured two divisions: a Collegiate Division for teams representing colleges and universities, and a Non-Collegiate Division for early-stage entrepreneurs developing new ventures. Five finalists advanced in each division, each competing for more than $10,000 in prize funding. Finalists were evaluated on several components, including a written business plan, competitor analysis, financial model, and formal venture presentation.

The Collegiate Division included competitors from Alvernia University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Penn State University, Misericordia University, and Wilkes University.

Misericordia University was represented by student entrepreneur and College of Business sophomore **Brady Quinn**, who was selected as a finalist for his venture, *Mat Attack*. His business concept centered on the development of a specialized soap product designed for combat sport athletes to help prevent common skin irritations and infections frequently associated with wrestling and other contact sports. Brady, a wrestler for Misericordia University, received enthusiastic crowd support from his fellow wrestlers who attended to watch his presentation, as well as many business faculty and senior administration members in attendance.

24TH ANNUAL TECBRIDGE AWARDS CEREMONY

Finalists, business leaders, educators, and community members gathered at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts on April 29, 2026, for the 24th Annual tecBRIDGE Awards Ceremony, which celebrates innovation, entrepreneurship, and regional collaboration. The event recognized the achievements of student entrepreneurs, early-stage business leaders, and educational partners who continue to contribute to the growth of entrepreneurship throughout northeastern Pennsylvania.

Student entrepreneur Brady Quinn, a Misericordia College of Business sophomore, earned the competition's Wild Card Award for his venture, *Mat Attack*. Selected exclusively through audience voting, the award recognized the business concept that generated the strongest public support and engagement during the competition process. Quinn received a $5,000 cash prize in recognition of his innovative product designed to help combat common skin irritations and infections experienced by combat sport athletes.

The evening also brought special recognition to Misericordia's College of Business **Dean Jim Pierson**, who was selected as the recipient of the tecBRIDGE Education Partner of the Year Award. The honor acknowledged Dean Pierson's leadership and continued commitment to advancing entrepreneurship, experiential learning, and community partnerships through the Misericordia University College of Business during his tenure. Under his leadership, the College has expanded opportunities for students to engage in innovation-focused programming, business competitions, and professional development experiences that connect classroom learning with real-world application.

College of Business Hosts AI Prompting Workshop for Back Mountain Chamber Members and Community

On Friday, April 17, 2026, Misericordia University's College of Business and the Center for Workforce Development welcomed Back Mountain Chamber members and community participants to campus for a professional development workshop titled "The Power of the Prompt: Getting the Most Out of AI." The session was held in the McGowan Room of the Mary Kintz Bevevino Library and focused on helping participants better understand how to use artificial intelligence as a practical tool for work, communication, creativity, and everyday problem-solving.

The 90-minute interactive workshop emphasized one key message: AI is only as powerful as the prompts behind it. Participants explored how to craft clearer, more strategic prompts to generate more useful and relevant results from AI tools. The workshop also highlighted personal and professional uses of AI, including career development, planning, learning, and goal setting. Designed for business owners, managers, professionals, entrepreneurs, and community members, the session helped participants move from curiosity to confidence by providing practical strategies they could apply immediately.

The session was facilitated by **Paul Nardone**, Director of the Workforce Center and Faculty in the College of Business, and **David Johndrow**, Director of IT Services at Misericordia University.

This program reflects the College of Business and the Center for Workforce Development and Talent Solutions' continued commitment to offering relevant, responsive, and results-driven learning opportunities that support the evolving needs of the regional workforce and broader community.

March 26th, Workforce Development Symposium

Misericordia University was proud to host its Workforce Development Symposium on Thursday, March 26, 2026, bringing together leaders from education, industry, workforce and economic development, government, and community organizations for a rich and energizing conversation about the future of workforce development in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The University was honored to welcome exceptional speakers and panelists whose insights helped shape the day's conversation, including **Amy Heitzman**, Deputy CEO and Chief Learning Officer at UPCEA; **Jill Avery-Stoss**, President and CEO of The Institute; **John Yudichak**, President Luzerne County Community College, and **Dr. Anthony Guariglia**, Administrative Director of the Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical Center, along with other distinguished contributors committed to advancing workforce solutions across the region.

Centered on the theme of cultivating a stronger, more collaborative workforce ecosystem, the symposium created an important space for meaningful dialogue around shared challenges, emerging opportunities, and the vital role of strategic partnerships in preparing the workforce of the future. Throughout the symposium, participants engaged in thoughtful and forward-looking discussions about talent development, skills gaps, employer needs, educational alignment, and the importance of shared ownership in building a workforce system that serves all stakeholders

"Misericordia University was pleased to host this important event and bring together so many thoughtful leaders and partners committed to strengthening workforce development in our region," said **Paul Nardone**, Director of Workforce Development in the College of Business at Misericordia University. "The rich conversations that took place throughout the symposium reinforced the value of collaboration and the importance of getting the right people to the table. We are grateful for the momentum that was generated and look forward to continuing the conversation and building upon it in meaningful ways."

As the momentum from the symposium continues to build, Misericordia University looks forward to continuing the conversation, deepening partnerships, and working together with stakeholders across the region to create innovative, sustainable workforce solutions for Northeastern Pennsylvania.

INSALACO CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP Internships

Fall 2025

Dalton Barker '27
Sport Management
WB/Scranton Penguins

Trent Creasy '25 '28
Business Admin /Pre-DPT
Patriot's Cove

Madison Fleschut '27
Sport Management
MU Athletics

Casey Funesti '25
Sport Management
Sports Sponsorship & Events Consulting LLC

Patrick Garlinghouse '27
Sport Management
MU Athletics

Jason Giambrone '26
Sport Management
MU Athletics

Lyndsey Horlnein '25
Business Administration
Novus Surgical

Yanet Kesete '26
Sport Management
Scranton/WB RailRiders

Nicholas Kirkessner '26
Business Administration
Brimar

Remember Konkle '25
Business Administration
Fellowship Church

John Matlock '27
Business Administration
WB/Scranton Penguins

Nadia Peimany '26
Business Administration
MU Marketing & PR Department

Ethan Poor '26 '27
Sport Management / MBA
King's College Athletics Dept

Eli Stoute '27
Sport Management
MU Athletics

Mitchell Watt '26 '27
Accounting / MBA
Benco Dental

Luke Wellman '26
Sport Management
MU Football Program

Josha Wichard '26
Business Administration
Children's Service Center

Angela Zammito '26 '27
Accounting/Economics/MBA
Friedman JCC

Spring 2026

Candace Apostola '26
Accounting
Federal Hearings & Appeal Services

Taylor Bath '27
Healthcare Administration
CIP Rehabilitation

Michael Brown '26
Accounting
Knaub Ray & Co.

Owen Daminger '27
Sport Management
Cape Henlopen SD

Ryan DeBellis '26
Business Administration
4-3 Critical Development & Consulting

Collin Dietz '26
Accounting
H&R Block

Ethan Felker '27
Sport Management
MU Equipment Management

Michael Flax '26
Business Administration
Children's Service Center

Caelan Gallagher '27
Sport Management
WB/Scranton Penguins

Patrick Garlinghouse '27
Sport Management
MU Athletics

Grace Graf '26 '27
Healthcare Admin / MBA
Endless Mountain Health Systems

Gavin Henderson '26
Sport Management
MU Athletics/Equip Management

Yanet Kesete '26
Sport Management
Friedman JCC

Nicholas Kirkessner '26
Business Administration
Brimar

Brian Korchok '27
Sport Management
Complete Game of PA

Jonathan Lush '26
Sport Management
WB/Scranton Penguins

Shane Macko '27
Business Administration
Wyoming Valley Run

Anthony Marmolejos '27
Sport Management
Fame Strength & MU Athletics/Equip Management

Jackson Massey '26 '27
Accounting / MBA
JH Williams

Connor McGee '26 '27
Accounting / MBA
JH Williams

Thomas Nasedo '26
Business Administration
MU Marketing & PR Dept

Jonah Naugle '26
Business Administration
WB Police Department

Gavin Ogrady '28
Sport Management
MU Athletics

Nadia Peimany '26
Business Administration
MU Marketing & PR Dept

Anna Pierce '26
Business Administration
Geisinger Medical Center

Ethan Poor '26 '27
Sport Management / MBA
King's College Athletics

Michael Saladino '26 '27
Accounting / MBA
Prociak & Associates

Ryan Shulman '26
Accounting
MU Accounting & Finance Dept

Jack Tos '26
Sport Management
WB/Scranton Penguins

Mitchell Watt '26 '27
Accounting / MBA
Benco Dental

Summer 2026

Dalton Barker '27
Sport Management
Limitless NIL

Hayden Best '28
Sport Management
Standing Stone Counseling

Hayden Best '28
Sport Management
L&B Farms Equestrian Facility

Patrick Brown '26
Business Administration
Ocean First Bank

Jaxson Campese '27
Business Administration – Sport Management
Monmouth University

Damian Cavuto '28
Sport Management
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins

Ashlee Charles '27
Healthcare Administration
St. Joseph Hospital

Ethan Felker '27
Sport Management
DE Turf

Aiden Frost '27
Healthcare Administration
CIP Rehabilitation

John Gallagher '26
Business Administration
Burlington

Patrick Garlinghouse '27
Sport Management
Trilogy Lacrosse

Patrick Garlinghouse '27
Sport Management
Perfect Game Baseball

Lilyan Gonzalez '27
Sport Management
Sussex County Miners

Cassie Kern '28
Business Administration
Diamond Manufacturing

Brooks Kanwisher '27
Business Administration
Argo Fund Solutions

Brian Korchok '27
Sport Management
Complete Game

Logan Larish '28
Business Administration
Nimble Consulting

Jonathan Lush '26
Sport Management
Beast Athletics

Robert Marx '27
Sport Management
Plainedge SD Athletics

Robert Marx '27
Sport Management
Plainedge SD Bobcats Youth

Kruz McCusker '28
Sport Management
Williamsport Crosscutters

Jennfier Milistis '26 '27
Accounting & MBA
PP&L Allentown

William Moran '28
Sport Management
MCG Golf

Jennifer Nicometo '27
Accounting
Friedman JCC

Vincent Proietto '27
Sport Management
Delco Baseball League

Richard Ragonese '27
Sport Management
Sporttime VBC

Dylan Ramirez '28
Business Administration
Aramark Corporation

Antoine Robidoux '28
Sport Management
Sports Rousseau

Meghan Rought '27
Accounting
C&T Enterprises, Claverack Rural Cooperative, Inc.

Nicholas Sapp '27
Business Administration
West Point Chief of Protocol

Glenn Sadler '27
Business Administration
Ephrata National Bank

William Stiles '28
Business Administration
EnterNet

Eli Stoute '27
Sport Management
Morris Elite Soccer Club

Angelina Zamitto '26 '27
Accounting & MBA
Securitas Security Systems USA

MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY • COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS CLINICS AND CENTERS

LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC (LITC)

RECEIVED AN IRS NOTICE?

Misericordia University (MU) LITC provides **FREE** representation for eligible taxpayers in IRS disputes. These include assistance with tax issues such as:

- Audits
- Collections
- Liens & Levies
- Innocent Spouse & Injured Spouse
- Litigation in Tax Court & District Court
- ID Theft & Preparer Fraud
- Worker Misclassification

OUR SERVICES

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS LITC CLINIC

Students and attorney volunteers, working under the supervision of Dean Jim Pierson, and clinic tax staff, represent low income taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service and the US. Tax Court in audits, appeals, collections and federal tax litigation.

LANGUAGE SERVICE

Interpreter services will be offered for in-person Spanish services. For other languages, we use the Language Line phone interpretation services.

ASK US ABOUT REFERRALS

The LITC does not prepare tax returns or applications for ITINs. For these services, please consult a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site instead.

"A taxpayer's decision to obtain representation from an LITC will not result in the IRS giving preferential treatment in handling the dispute or problem and will not affect the taxpayer's rights before the IRS."

LITC Low Income Taxpayer Clinics
REPRESENTATION • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY

(570) 674-1472 | taxclinic@misericordia.edu | 301 Lake Street, Dallas, PA 18612 | misericordia.edu/LITC

MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TALENT SOLUTIONS



Elevating Careers.
Empowering Businesses.
Strengthening Communities.

The **Center for Workforce Development and Talent Solutions** at Misericordia University bridges the gap between academia and business, empowering **individuals** and **organizations** to achieve their fullest potential.

OUR MISSION
We empower organizations and individuals to thrive in a dynamic economy by fostering transformation through innovative education and skill development.

OUR VISION
To be a catalyst for career advancement and readiness by delivering high-impact professional development programs that address evolving business needs. We aim to equip the workforce with the skills, knowledge, and agility necessary for success in a rapidly changing job market.

OUR COMMITMENT
Through strategic partnerships, the Center strengthens the economic vitality of our local community, the region, and beyond, ensuring a workforce prepared for the future.

OUR SERVICES

WORKFORCE & TALENT SOLUTIONS
Empowering businesses with skilled, job-ready talent to meet evolving industry needs locally, regionally, and beyond.

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS
Collaborating with employers, associations, and agencies to build strong talent pipelines and strengthen the workforce locally and beyond.

COMPREHENSIVE CREDENTIALS
Offering certificates, micro-credentials, badges, and degree programs in high-demand fields to support career growth.

CAREER SUPPORT
Providing career counseling and ongoing support to help individuals navigate transitions, advance, and achieve long-term success.

CUSTOMIZED WORKFORCE TRAINING
Delivering tailored programs in leadership, technical skills, and key sectors like business, healthcare, technology, and human development.

OUR AREAS OF FOCUS

General Business. Business Healthcare. Business Technology & Analytics. Human Development Skills.

Let's build a stronger future together—connect with the Center for Workforce Development and Talent Solutions today!

For more info, contact:

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570-674-8130

MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Scan to find out more about
Misericordia University's
Business Program.

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