

BUSINESS



The Magazine of the Southern Illinois
University Edwardsville School of Business
FALL 2025

**Engagement.
Innovation.
Impact.**



**SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
EDWARDSVILLE**

About the SIUE School of Business

OUR VISION

The SIUE School of Business aspires to be recognized for its excellence in developing highly skilled professionals who shape the global business environment in an ethical, inclusive, responsible, and innovative manner.

OUR MISSION

The SIUE School of Business provides a high-quality, accessible business education that empowers learners to make a difference in a dynamic, diverse, and connected world.

KEY ELEMENTS OF OUR MISSION

HIGH QUALITY

We provide a high-quality business education by: (1) offering business programs that are accredited by AACSB; (2) creating a learning environment for undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education students that fosters creativity, critical thinking, ethical behavior, sociocultural competence, and appreciation of global issues; (3) placing a strong emphasis on the application of cutting-edge business practices and technology in our business programs; (4) hiring and retaining faculty that deliver a business curriculum based on the combination of contemporary research, relevant business practice, and teaching effectiveness.

ACCESSIBLE

Our education is accessible in several ways: (1) we offer courses in fully online, hybrid, and traditional face-to-face formats, depending upon our students' and degree programs' characteristics; (2) we foster a welcoming community for students from a diverse set of backgrounds by being sensitive to their social and educational concerns; (3) we connect students with the business community in the St. Louis metropolitan area; (4) we have faculty that are excited to engage with students both during and outside of class.

A DYNAMIC, DIVERSE, AND CONNECTED WORLD

We prepare our students to function and thrive in a rapidly changing global business environment by developing an appreciation of different world views, an international perspective, and technological skills in the business curriculum.

10

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

including 2 national honor societies

NEARLY 300

employers engaged with SIUE business students through career fairs and campus events last year

19 YEARS

For the 19th consecutive year, the School of Business is named an outstanding business school by The Princeton Review. "The Best Business Schools: 2025 Edition" by The Princeton Review recommends the School as one of the best institutions in the U.S. from which students can earn an MBA.



TOP 5%
INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Only 5% of business schools worldwide are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International. Even fewer have earned dual AACSB accreditation in business and accounting, placing the SIUE School of Business among the elite 2% of business schools around the world to have earned this dual distinction.

SIUE IS AMONG AN ELITE FEW:

2% of business schools worldwide are AACSB-accredited in both business and accounting.

2 UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

- BS Accountancy
- BS Business Administration

12 UNDERGRADUATE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION SPECIALIZATIONS

- Computer Information Systems
- Cybersecurity
- Data Analytics
- Economics
- Entrepreneurship
- Finance
- General Business Administration
- Human Resource Management
- International Business
- Management
- Marketing
- Supply Chain Management

SIGNATURE COURSES

Business Transitions I:

Planning for Success

Business Transitions II:

Commitment Beyond College

51 FACULTY *full-time*

22 FACULTY *part-time*

4 GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Marketing Research
- MS Accountancy
- MS Management and Information Systems

GRADUATE SPECIALIZATIONS

MBA

- Business Analytics
- Healthcare Administration
- Management
- Management Information Systems
- Project Management

Master of Marketing Research

- Business Analytics

MS Accountancy

- Business Analytics
- Taxation

MS MIS

- Business Analytics
- Project Management

LETTER FROM

the Dean

Over the past year since joining SIUE as dean of the School of Business, I have come to appreciate something profound about our community; the real value of business education today lies not in information alone, but in how we engage with one another.

In an era when artificial intelligence places knowledge at our fingertips, the differentiator for our graduates will not simply be what they know, but how they connect, how they collaborate, and how they bring knowledge to life through action. Engagement with peers, faculty, industry leaders, alumni, and communities is what transforms learning into wisdom, and opportunity into impact.

This year's magazine is dedicated to that truth. Each story underscores how engagement builds the confidence, resilience, and adaptability that employers and society demand. It is the thread that unites us; whether students are developing entrepreneurial ventures, alumni are mentoring the next generation, or faculty are leading collaborative research and partnerships.

As we move forward, engagement will remain the foundation upon which we build. Next year, we will shine a spotlight on innovation, and the year after, on impact, together representing the three pillars of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and our strategic vision for the School of Business. But it begins here, with engagement: the essential spark that ignites everything else.

I invite you to read these pages not only as a record of achievements but as a reflection of who we are becoming. At the SIUE School of Business, engagement is not an activity; it is our identity. It is how we prepare leaders who will thrive in a world of rapid change and how we ensure the School continues to serve as a place where ideas grow, relationships deepen, and futures are built.

Mario Hayek, PhD

Dean



Student Organizations Engage with Industry Professionals

Business students at SIUE create, host, and benefit from events, programs, and networking opportunities that connect them with successful local executives



SIUE business students, shown here, engage with representatives from businesses around the region and beyond at a variety of campus events, building connections that open doors to future opportunities.

Beta Alpha Psi Chapter Hosts Meet the Firms and Networking Night

Beta Alpha Psi (BAP), the School of Business student chapter, hosts the annual Meet the Firms Night to help students build meaningful connections with potential employers. Each year, the event draws more than 20 employer exhibitors and over 75 students to the SIUE campus.

"It is important to bring firms onto SIUE's campus through events like this because it allows students to interact with recruiters without having to travel off-campus," said Marc Ortegren, PhD, associate professor of accounting and BAP faculty advisor. "By facilitating face-to-face interaction, Meet the Firms provides students with

networking opportunities and exposure to the wide variety of firms, companies, and agencies that recruit accounting students."

Ortegren believes that events like Meet the Firms, combined with the strong work ethic of SIUE students, prepare graduates to excel in their careers.

"Many of our students work 20 to 40 hours per week while managing a full course load, social and extracurricular activities, and career preparation," Ortegren said. "This all results in our students' ability to hit the ground running in their careers after graduation."



Representatives from banks across the region gave students insight into the financial services industry at the inaugural local banker panel hosted by the Finance Management Association.

Finance Management Association Connects Students with Local Bankers

The School of Business Finance Management Association (FMA) chapter celebrated its successful inaugural local banker panel and networking event during the spring semester, bringing together bankers and future finance professionals on the SIUE campus.

Dalton Powers, immediate past president of FMA and president of the Finance Club, and Nicholas Witaschek, current FMA president, work hard to develop real-world financial education opportunities for their peers. They worked closely with Jie Ying, PhD, former assistant professor of finance, who mentored the organization.

"Dean Hayek met with several local bankers in fall 2024 to learn more about their hiring needs," Powers said. "From there, a group of us partnered with the dean and Ying to organize an event

featuring a panel of banking professionals and networking opportunities for students."

Students attended the April 2025 panel event eager to learn from industry leaders. They asked insightful questions during the panel discussion, which sparked engaging conversations during the Q&A session and networking portion of the event.

"We believe this synergy between local banking executives and our finance students benefits everyone," Witaschek said. "By hosting this FMA panel event each year, we will continue to provide valuable educational experiences for students while building a pipeline of potential future employees for local and regional banks."

Accounting Department Hosts First Regional Internal Auditors Event

SIUE accounting students, in collaboration with Jamie Hoelscher, PhD, associate professor of accounting, hosted 80 members of the St. Louis chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), along with faculty, students, and professionals from across the region, for the St. Louis IIA Student Night on campus.

This event marked the first time SIUE hosted the Student Night, which featured an expert panel of auditing professionals at various stages in their careers, a Q&A session, and an informal networking period to close the evening.

"Hosting the event in our own backyard significantly increased

attendance and raised awareness of the IIA," Hoelscher said. "We hope to host again in the future."

Patrick Terkutei, a graduate student pursuing his Master of Science in Accountancy, previously attended two national IIA conferences before participating in Student Night at SIUE.

"I am eager to continue my involvement in future IIA events at SIUE," Terkutei said. "Events like the annual Student Night give my fellow students valuable insights into the internal audit profession and highlight how AI is playing a key role in shaping the industry today."



Leaders from the SIUE Schools of Business and Engineering gave Edwardsville CEO program students a tour of the collaborative learning environments around campus.

Edwardsville CEO Program Inspires High School Entrepreneurs

The SIUE School of Business supports and collaborates with young entrepreneurs long before they arrive on campus through its partnership with the Edwardsville Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization (CEO) program.

The CEO program, open to high school seniors through a competitive admissions process, accepts more than two dozen students each year. Students meet every weekday morning for 90 minutes during the school year to learn what it takes to start and run a business. They visit regional companies, connect with more than 100 local business leaders, and launch their own ventures each spring.

"We're entering our eighth year this fall," said Hannah Allison, program director for Edwardsville CEO. "We began with nine students, and it has grown significantly since then. Our chapter is one of approximately 75 CEO programs across eight states, giving high school seniors an up-close, behind-the-scenes look at successful entrepreneurs and opening their eyes to the possibility of launching their own companies."

The Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for the Metro East at SIUE serves as a key partner in the program. Jo Ann Di Maggio May, director of the SBDC, and her team help students write business plans, define target markets, prepare pitches, and solve real startup challenges. The SBDC also judges the class's annual "fish tank" pitch competition, providing feedback as students present their business ideas. The School of Business and the SBDC sponsor the competition and provide prize money for the top three winners.

A 14-member local board of directors, made up of successful Edwardsville-area entrepreneurs and business owners, oversees the program. More than 90 local investors support its mission and operations.

"Dean Hayek has inspired our students with his own entrepreneurial journey," Allison said. "As he tells the students, 'You can be successful in any career if you have the will, the work ethic, and the desire to succeed.'"

The SIUE School of Business supports and collaborates with young entrepreneurs long before they arrive on campus through its partnership with the Edwardsville CEO program.



Startup Surge Equips Community with Tools for Entrepreneurial Success

The SIUE School of Business is helping students, faculty, staff, and community members transform big ideas into real-world ventures through Startup Surge, a 10-week, hands-on program designed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the tools to launch, manage, and grow their businesses.

"This is the first time we've offered this non-credit program," said Yohan Choi, PhD, assistant professor of management and marketing. "Approximately 20 active participants are learning how to start and run a company. We not only provide training and mentoring, but we also require participants to complete a business plan by the end of the course. Our overall goal is to help them validate their ideas."

This year's participants include a student developing an online service marketplace for students and an SIUE alum designing a portable pillow to help patients sit with dignity while supporting caregivers.

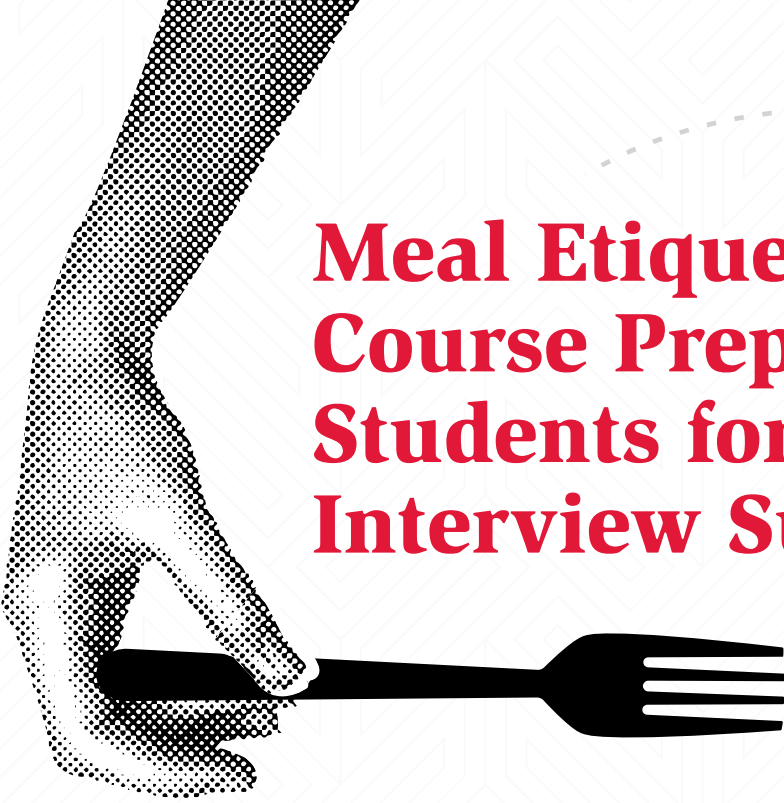
The dynamic curriculum covers essential entrepreneurial topics, including reading financial statements, calculating break-even points, estimating cash flow, differentiating products or services, and developing long-term revenue strategies. Participants also learn to identify the nine unique building blocks of their business model.

"Participants fully invest themselves in their ideas," Choi said. "While we encourage their creativity, we teach them that what truly matters is solving their potential customers' problems."

At the end of the program, participants have the opportunity to enter the School of Business' entrepreneur pitch contest, TheOther40, now in its 15th year. SIUE business students also compete in a regional pitch competition with student entrepreneurs from universities across St. Louis.

"We welcome support from alumni, including financial contributions, to help the School of Business provide students with hands-on opportunities to learn about and experience entrepreneurship," Choi said.





Meal Etiquette Course Prepares Students for Interview Success

“Wait until your host begins eating before you start.” “Pass the salt and pepper together.” “Choose each utensil from the outside in.” “Keep your beverage on the right and your bread on the left.” “Silence and put away your smartphone.”

These are just a few of the practical tips students learn in SIUE’s required business etiquette course. While some students may initially view this course as less important than others, Norris Manning, EdD, director of academic services, emphasizes that mastering proper etiquette is crucial when preparing for professional opportunities.

“The etiquette dinner is an opportunity for students to put their table manners into practice as they dine with working professionals from our community,” said Manning.

Each semester, SIUE partners with Melenie Broyles of Etiquette Saint Louis to deliver the etiquette dinner and workshop. The event brings together more than 200 students, each seated with an area professional creating opportunities for learning and networking.

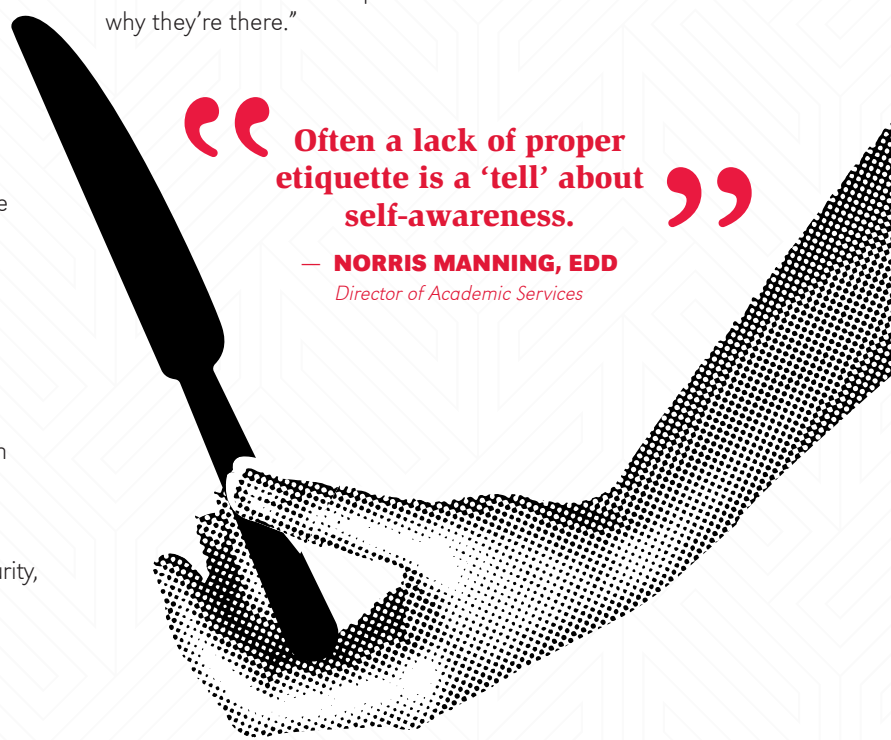
“We teach programming on business etiquette dinners and professionalism at several universities and businesses,” said Broyles. “But what truly sets SIUE’s etiquette dinner apart from any other is that there are business professionals present at each table.”

Joy Nartey, who earned a BSBA with a specialization in cybersecurity, shared the value she found in both the connections and skills

gained through the experience. “Everyone should go through this course because it teaches you how to act in a professional business environment,” Nartey said. “These skills will be valuable for me throughout my career.”

Broyles noted that the course uses humor to keep students engaged, making the event enjoyable for both students and guests. “As the years go by, we’re finding that fewer students have had experience sitting at a formal meal. These skills are equipping students to be comfortable, no matter where they go.”

Broyles emphasized the long-term value these practical skills provide. “The impact these simple etiquette tips may have on the students’ career paths is profound,” she said. “Having already mastered basic table etiquette allows them to relax and focus on why they’re there.”



“Often a lack of proper etiquette is a ‘tell’ about self-awareness.”

— NORRIS MANNING, EDD
Director of Academic Services



The Business Living Learning Community gave Sukrity Wosti, Jazmyn Zurita, and Payton Carter a chance to connect with other women in their major.

Living Learning Community Opens Circle of Connections for Business Students

When first-year School of Business students move into University Housing, they can join a Living Learning Community (LLC), where they develop a sense of community by living with peers who share similar academic interests. The Business LLC has dedicated floors in residence halls, providing students with opportunities to connect, collaborate, and build friendships from the start.

"With the School of Business, students can request a space in a specific wing of a residence hall where they'll meet and connect with other students who are choosing the same course of study," said Mallory Sidarous, director of University Housing. "Our most active communities include first-year students."

A key goal of the Business LLC is to create educational and social opportunities early in a student's college journey.

"As a first-year business student, there's power in the opportunity to engage with senior students and members of the professional community," said Sidarous. "Students have the opportunity to interact with a faculty fellow and may also get the opportunity to learn from companies as they build their resumé."

LLCs provide an unintimidating environment where students can ask questions and receive guidance.

"Connecting with faculty beyond the classroom is another true benefit of this experience," said Sidarous. "Our students tend to be more successful if they have these informal interactions, such

as a meal, program, or networking event, as they learn the important skills of being able to engage comfortably with others. These engagements are promoting their academic success."

The Business Living Learning Community connects students to a group of peers with similar interests and career goals.

Jazmyn Zurita, who worked as a residence hall assistant for two years, shared how the Business LLC impacted her college experience. "I applied to be part of the Business LLC because I wanted to be around other women studying computer information systems," said Zurita. "Being around like-minded students gave me the chance to build relationships with several women whom I also recognized as being in some of my classes. It is definitely a way to expand your network early on."

Zurita encourages current students to take advantage of the opportunities offered through the Business LLC.

"I definitely encourage a lot of my residents to attend Business LLC events such as LinkedIn profile development workshops, and business student organizations fair, to learn and meet people early on," said Zurita. "You never know where that connection will lead. It can create lifelong friendships."



Business administration major Nicholas Witaschek showcased his collaborative research for the SIU Board of Trustees.

SIU Board of Trustees Hears Student's Perspective on Advances in Cybersecurity

A standout student recently impressed the SIU System Board of Trustees with a presentation on the critical topic of cybersecurity.

Nicholas Witaschek, a business administration major specializing in finance and computer information systems, presented "Securing Our Future: Advances in Cybersecurity" at a fall 2024 board meeting.

The opportunity arose when Clay Williams, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Computer Management and Information Systems (CMIS), shared Witaschek's research and expertise with Dean Hayek. The board regularly invites students to speak about their academic experiences to provide trustees with insight into activities across the System.

"The board immediately gravitated to Nicholas's presentation topic because of the impact of cyber threats," said Williams. "He did an excellent job and fielded questions like a pro. A board member's spouse works in IT for a healthcare organization that had been the victim of a local security breach, so that underscored the relevance of what Nicholas presented."

Witaschek's presentation covered the cost of cyber breaches, the growing demand for cybersecurity talent, educational pathways,

regional internship opportunities, and the School's strong placement rates for cybersecurity graduates.

He also shared his collaborative research with Markus Nauroth, PhD, assistant professor in the CMIS Department. Together, they partnered with a professor and a student from the University of Applied Sciences of the German Central Bank to examine how cyberattacks affect the stock prices of publicly traded companies.

"It was fascinating to dig into some of the cyberattack data for publicly traded companies and see the impact upon stock prices," said Witaschek. "The board absorbed the fact that this industry is short of qualified individuals who understand both the tech side and the people side."

Williams praised Witaschek's performance and highlighted that the School's cybersecurity specialization has grown from zero to more than 100 students in just over four years, doubling initial five-year enrollment projections.

"It's clear that this is a sound career path for business students," said Williams. "There is no doubt that Nicholas's presentation encouraged the board to continue supporting this program."

Expert Panel Briefs Students on AI

The SIUE chapter of the Association for Information Systems (AIS) hosted a region-wide expert panel on artificial intelligence (AI), providing business students with the opportunity to learn directly from professionals working with AI technology.

Cassandra Collier, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Management and Information Systems (CMIS) and faculty advisor for AIS, noted that several business students have actively embraced opportunities to attend the association's national conference and organize industry and educational events on campus. One of these events included the AI panel and networking session, which featured successful CMIS professionals from across the region.

Collier and SIUE chapter president Kashish Tandon have taken a proactive approach to bringing AI expertise to the forefront, coordinating events that have attracted strong participation from the local chapter's 80 members. Other AIS-sponsored activities at SIUE include a hackathon known as Capture the Flag.

"We hope our first AI and networking panel will be the first annual event," said Tandon, who earned a BSBA with specializations in cybersecurity and management in May 2025. "The event emphasizes how AI is helpful for everyone pursuing careers in business."

The panel featured IT professionals from Bayer, Spectrum, and other St. Louis-based firms, who discussed AI-specific topics such as data privacy, bias in AI models, autonomous AI, and AI-driven sixth-generation wireless communications networks. Business students and faculty expressed interest in the intersection of AI networking and cybersecurity, two rapidly growing fields that are expected to remain central to the discipline for years to come.

Cassandra Collier, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Management and Information Systems (CMIS) and faculty advisor for the SIUE chapter of the Association for Information Systems, and SIUE chapter president Kashish Tandon, pictured above, have taken a proactive approach to bringing AI expertise to the forefront.





The late Ralph Korte, founder of The Korte Company and SIUE's Construction Leadership Institute, is pictured center with members of The Korte Company.

Construction Leadership Institute Thrives for 20+ Years

With a record-breaking number of graduates, the Construction Leadership Institute (CLI) demonstrates the strength of the School of Business Executive Education Program in developing future leaders in construction.

Kristine Jarden, director of executive education, shared that CLI's 22nd class graduated 48 professionals in March 2025. Over the past two and a half decades, the program has graduated more than 600 professionals, many of whom have moved into leadership positions within construction companies across the region.

The nine-week program, jointly developed by the School of Business and the School of Engineering's Department of Construction, equips emerging leaders in the architecture, engineering, and construction industries with essential skills in leadership, communication, and strategic thinking. Ralph Korte, founder of The Korte Company, established the program to strengthen the industry's leadership pipeline.

CLI's instructors include industry leaders, consultants, and SIUE faculty who bring a wealth of knowledge about the building industry. The curriculum features industry-specific exercises that reinforce communication and team-building skills. Participants typically work for general or specialty contractors, architecture or engineering firms, or organizations that purchase or provide construction services. The program is designed for individuals aspiring to senior management or C-level roles within the industry.

"Most of our CLI students are project managers who have been identified as top emerging managers or directors who can grow into a C-suite role," said Jarden. "We're bringing in industry experts on topics such as HR, innovation, financial management, soft skills, and more."

In addition to CLI, the Executive Education Program offers the Leadership Boot Camp, a week-long, 10-topic series designed to help participants master emotional intelligence, mental health first aid, conflict resolution, data management, supply chain management, project management, and decision-making.



REMEMBERING RALPH KORTE

(1934-2025)

The University community mourns the loss of Ralph F. Korte, '68, a visionary School of Business alum, construction pioneer, and dedicated supporter of his alma mater. From humble beginnings on his Highland farm, Korte built The Korte Company into a national leader in design-build construction, shaping communities across the country. The beloved leader established a legacy that continues through the students, programs, and facilities he helped inspire.

Panel and Networking Event Celebrates and Supports Women Entrepreneurs

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Business Survey, women-owned businesses generated more than \$2.1 trillion in revenue, employed over 11 million people, and contributed more than \$508 million in annual payroll in 2022.

At the SIUE School of Business, faculty members like Gloria Sweida, PhD, associate professor of management, are helping fuel their female students' entrepreneurial ambitions, providing them with the tools needed to break glass ceilings across business sectors.

Sweida, whose research focuses on women entrepreneurs and leaders and the challenges they face, established a unique women's entrepreneurship panel and networking event to connect successful businesswomen with students aspiring to launch their own businesses.

The third annual women's entrepreneurship event will take place in November 2025 on the SIUE campus, showcasing women business owners in male-dominated fields. The inaugural event, held in 2023, drew more than 100 attendees.

“I’ve been able to take what I learned from our panel event and carry it with me as I speak to audiences about blazing my own trail. It motivated me deeply to continue working to raise women up.”

— MAKAYLA ROWE '24

BS, Business Administration, Entrepreneurship, MBA Candidate

“It’s an exciting evening where successful women who have navigated their way through their own entrepreneurial ventures share the challenges they’ve faced, such as accessing capital, balancing their professional and personal responsibilities, overcoming gender discrimination, and more,” said Sweida.

The event features a Q&A session and a networking period, allowing aspiring entrepreneurs of all genders to connect with established professionals and gain insight into what it takes to start and operate a successful company.

“Even very successful women entrepreneurs—those who are well-respected in their field—still come up against serious obstacles,” said Rowe. “It was a big mental shift for me to realize this. Being able to interact with these strong, creative women in person was so valuable, and it humanized the struggles many of us experience as we launch our own businesses.”

Makayla Rowe, winner of the School of Business’s annual TheOther40 pitch competition in 2024, used her prize earnings to launch her business, a mobile boutique that supports animal adoption organizations.





Charles "Charlie" Myer, BS Business Administration '90, remarks to the audience during his induction into the SIUE Alumni Hall of Fame.

SIUE Hall of Fame Inducts Charles "Charlie" Myer

Each year, the School of Business, in partnership with the SIUE Alumni Association, honors an alumnus who exemplifies leadership, character, and dedication to their field and community by inducting them into the SIUE Alumni and Athletics Hall of Fame. In 2024, Charles "Charlie" Myer, BS Business Administration '90, received this honor.

As a business student at SIUE, Myer took a part-time job as a strength training instructor at the Edwardsville YMCA, a role that launched his nearly 37-year professional career with the nonprofit organization.

"Before I knew it, I went from weight room instruction to being the chief operating officer of the Edwardsville Y," said Myer.

His YMCA career spanned roles including chief executive officer at the Middletown Area YMCA in Ohio, vice president of advancement at the YMCA of Greater Houston, chief development officer for

the Orange County, Calif. YMCA, and chief development officer and foundation president for the YMCA Metropolitan Dallas.

After transitioning to financial development, Myer helped raise millions of dollars for YMCA initiatives and co-founded the YMCA Day of Giving. Now retired, he remains committed to serving his community and actively volunteers at his local YMCA in New England. He continues to support YMCAs nationwide through consulting and enjoys traveling with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

"I'm very honored to be recognized and inducted into the SIUE Hall of Fame," said Myer. "The beauty of the YMCA is that it serves each community and meets that community's unique needs, whether it's after-school childcare, health and wellness, and more. It's so much more than 'gym and swim.'"

Among his many accomplishments, Myer is especially proud of launching Interaction, a program for children and young adults with special needs, at the Edwardsville YMCA more than 30 years ago. The program continues to serve the community today.

Myer's connection to SIUE runs deep. His father, Donal Myer, was a biologist and dean of the former SIUE School of Sciences, now the College of Arts and Sciences.

Driving Innovation Through Support

The School of Business continues to thrive thanks to the generosity of our many donors and friends. Their investments in our mission provide scholarships, strengthen our academic programs, and create opportunities that prepare students to excel as the next generation of business leaders. With their collective support, our partners enrich the academic and professional journey of our students, drive innovation, and fuel economic vitality throughout the region and beyond.

Fiscal Year 2025 Giving Overview

The figure below demonstrates how contributions to the SIUE School of Business help shape the future of business education.

Scholarships: 47.3%

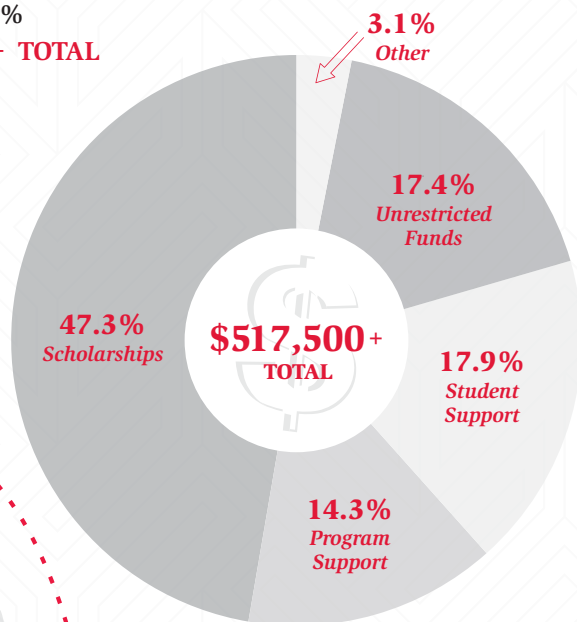
Program Support: 14.3%

Student Support: 17.9%

Unrestricted Funds: 17.4%

Other: 3.1%

\$517,500+ TOTAL



Key Contributors

Our corporate partners play a vital role in advancing our mission by creating opportunities that connect classroom learning with real-world experiences. By offering scholarships, internships, mentorship, and other program support help prepare our students to become the next generation of business leaders.

Anders CPAs + Advisors

Associated Bank

Bank of Springfield

The Boeing Company

Busey Bank

Carrollton Bank

City of Highland, Illinois

City of O'Fallon, Illinois

Dieterich Bank

Edward Jones

Enterprise Holdings Foundation

FCB Banks

Greater St. Louis, Inc.

Greater STL CH Fraud EX

Justine Petersen Housing and Reinvestment

The Korte Company

Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois

Leidos, Inc.

Louer Facility Planning, Inc.

Masterclock, Inc.

Moneta

RSM US Foundation

Scott Air Force Base

Sentry Insurance Foundation

Small Business Growth Corporation

SSM Health

St. Louis International Tax Group

SyllogisTeks

The Better Contractor

Walgreen Company

World Wide Technology

School of Business Welcomes New Faculty

With the addition of two new faculty members to its ranks, the Department of Management and Marketing is expanding the expertise available to students in the School of Business while strengthening its commitment to excellence in teaching and research



Minseok Kim, PhD

MINSEOK KIM, PHD

Kim arrived in the United States in 2012 as an exchange student after serving in the Korean military. He earned a BS in mathematics with a minor in computer science from Stony Brook University, followed by a doctorate from Rutgers University, where he worked as a lecturer, course developer, and teaching assistant before joining SIUE.

"At some schools, you can feel one vibe during the interview process and then a totally different vibe once you get hired. Not so at SIUE!" said Kim. "From my first experience, I could tell that the School of Business is comprised of supportive, team-oriented faculty members. I love the environment here."

At SIUE, Kim teaches operations management, inventory management, and data analysis skills, including forecasting and optimization models. His father, a retired educator and instructor in the Korean Army, inspired him to pursue a career in education. "Higher education runs in our family," said Kim. "My father was my math and science tutor."

Kim sees significant potential for regional logistics operations, citing the Gateway Commerce Center, warehouse distribution parks across Illinois and Missouri, and Scott Air Force Base. "Logistics is foundational knowledge for business owners," he said.

His research interests include using computer vision in AI for supply chain management, leveraging geospatial data for cost-effective and responsive urban management, and identifying supply chain disruptions through satellite imagery. His current work connects AI, remote sensing, and port operations, including real-time classification of airplane activities using satellite imagery.



Gwangjae Yu, PhD

GWANGJAE YU, PHD

Yu earned his doctorate in supply chain management from Arizona State University in 2021. He also holds a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Science in industrial and systems engineering from KAIST in Daejeon, Korea.

Before joining SIUE, Yu worked as a staff engineer in Samsung Electronics' memory business division in Korea for three years. He also served as a researcher at KAIST's Industrial Engineering and Management Research Institute and worked as an assistant manager in Cowon Systems' internet media division in Seoul.

"While working in industry after that first job is not common, some schools actually encourage it," Yu said. "I was thinking it could be very interesting to begin my career in industry, learning about my job and what's going on in the actual field to augment my textbook learning."

Yu completed his PhD during the pandemic, a time when academic positions were scarce.

"There was a great demand for IT to support the remote workforce," he said. "Performing research focused on improving semiconductor chip manufacturing productivity was the ideal job for me."

Yu values SIUE's proximity to the St. Louis tech industry. "There is an abundance of companies around the region that connect with applied research problems and research topics," he said. "This enables me to encourage students to cultivate additional interests in supply chain management, particularly if some of them are interested in pursuing data analysis or technical jobs."

The Wedge Powered by SIUE

A ceremonial ribbon-cutting officially launched the 55,000-square-foot social impact hub, research lab, think tank, and workspace designed to drive innovation and economic growth across the bi-state region.



A new, groundbreaking strategic alliance is accelerating economic revitalization across the River Bend region and beyond

“The Wedge Powered by SIUE” marks the latest step in a bold redevelopment initiative launched by AltonWorks CEO, attorney and Alton native John Simmons. Founded in 2018, AltonWorks is a social impact redevelopment company focused on the revitalization of historic downtown Alton as a thriving, walkable city and regional innovation hub.

Located in a 55,000-square-foot, wedge-shaped historic building in downtown Alton, The Wedge now serves as a social impact hub, research lab, think tank, and collaborative workspace aimed at driving innovation throughout Illinois, Missouri, and the Midwest.

“This partnership represents a pivotal moment for our region,” Simmons said. “By bringing together SIUE’s research capabilities and educational programming with The Wedge’s innovative workspace, we’re creating unprecedented opportunities for economic growth, workforce development, and community engagement.”

SIUE Chancellor James T. Minor, PhD, emphasized that SIUE is committed to extending its impact beyond the classroom.

“Our partnership with The Wedge allows us to advance our commitment to economic and community development,” said

Minor. “But also, in service to our mission, it provides high-quality educational opportunities to students and families.”

SIUE maintains dedicated space within The Wedge to house innovative initiatives, including the University’s GeoMARC Program, which offers geospatial mapping, applications, and research, the Center for Predictive Analytics, the Center for Sustainable Communities and Entrepreneurship, as well as programming in cybersecurity, sustainable energy solutions, and food and agricultural systems.

“SIUE is committed to offering responsive programming to meet community needs and seeks to expand offerings based on stakeholder feedback,” Minor added.

In collaboration with the School of Business and the Office of Online Services and Educational Outreach, SIUE also delivers professional development programs addressing both personal and professional growth. These programs include courses in entrepreneurship, innovation, wellness, career development, technology training, grant writing, workplace effectiveness, and various industry-aligned non-credit courses.

“This diverse programming portfolio is designed to meet the evolving needs of the community and local businesses while providing accessible, high-quality educational opportunities that support workforce development and economic growth in the region,” said Minor.

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Fiscal Year 2025-26

The School of Business works closely with the business community to provide the very best business expertise and develop programs that provide a foundation for students to become leaders in their chosen areas. The commitment of these advisory board members to lend their expertise and to serve the School of Business as ambassadors in the business community is greatly recognized and appreciated.

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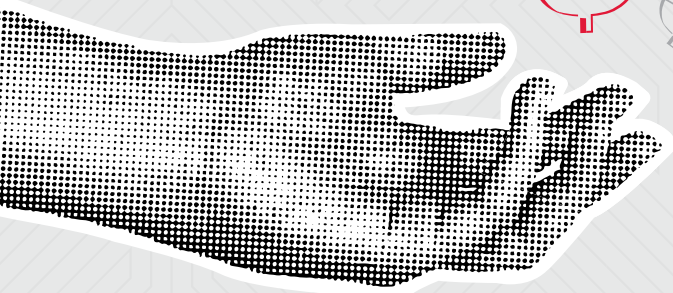
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Dean's Circle members Patrick and Roberta Calvin joined Dean Mario Hayek, PhD, at the Dean's Circle Dinner in April 2024.