UMass SIFE Projects

1. Business Ethics

Wall Street Ethics Evolution Project (W.E.E.P.) Results: 9 people surveyed to-date

Criteria:
- As an extension of the ‘Ethics Evolution’ project, the Wall Street Ethics Evolution Project (W.E.E.P.) was initiated to put our students to the test. As part of the project, wall streets were strategically placed in both male and female bathrooms.

When students exited the restrooms, they were given a questionnaire to fill out by the UMass SIFE team. The students were then asked if they had seen a Wall Street Ethics Evolution Project, a 13-week period to test 17 New Bedford High School students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds about entrepreneurship and business plan development. The workshops included product/service concepts, marketing, management, financial plans, business success, and social service operation strategies. The High School students presented their business plans at the end of the semester, and the best business plans were awarded to the CASP students. (CASP) is a non-profit school that serves disabled children (or as they are kindly referred to as “people with disabilities”), specializing in autism. UMassD SIFE members evaluated and revised five business plans developed by the CASP students.

Last year, several SIFE members traveled to Peru with the International Business Association (IBA) to provide consulting services to Centro Ann Sullivan del Peru (CASP). CASP is a non-profit school for disabled children (or as they are kindly referred to as “people with disabilities”), specializing in autism. UMassD SIFE members evaluated and revised five business plans developed by the CASP students. (CASP) is a non-profit school that serves disabled children (or as they are kindly referred to as “people with disabilities”), specializing in autism. UMassD SIFE members evaluated and revised five business plans developed by the CASP students.

1. CreditSmart Results: 20 people impacted

Criteria:
- Each student was given a pre-test, and at the end of the program, a post-test. Both pre-tests and post-tests were conducted by each student to document their knowledge gained from attending the workshops. The pre- and post-tests showed a 10-point improvement in their knowledge, highlighting the success of the program. With funds from a Business Advisory Board (BAB) member, the students were awarded $10 to $20 gift certificates. The program was awarded with the number of testees and the number of testees each student attended. As part of the program, each student pledged to report the FICO scores to the UMassD SIFE team, on an annual basis, to evaluate the sustainability of their effective credit management. Based on the success of this format, the program will be expanded to accommodate a larger attendance within the same target audience.

2. Market Economics

Fix Sharing Forum Results: 50 people impacted

Criteria:
- The UMassD SIFE team and the Office of Housing and Residential Life collaborated to put our students to the test. Fix Sharing was a major concern on most college campuses. Even though the University has a strict policy against the sharing of medication, the problem continues to prevail. Students were asked if the pill was in their pocket, if they had a prescription, and if they knew the name of the pill. Of the students surveyed, 37% were found to be ethical. We plan to gather additional statistical data for next year to launch another Ethics Evolution project with the involvement of various media outlets.

3. Financial Literacy

CreditSmart Results: 20 people impacted

Criteria:
- Each student was given a pre-test, and at the end of the program, a post-test. Both pre-tests and post-tests were conducted by each student to document their knowledge gained from attending the workshops. The pre- and post-tests showed a 10-point improvement in their knowledge, highlighting the success of the program. With funds from a Business Advisory Board (BAB) member, the students were awarded $10 to $20 gift certificates. The program was awarded with the number of testees and the number of testees each student attended. As part of the program, each student pledged to report the FICO scores to the UMassD SIFE team, on an annual basis, to evaluate the sustainability of their effective credit management. Based on the success of this format, the program will be expanded to accommodate a larger attendance within the same target audience.

4. Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship Education Outreach Project (EEO) Results: 17 people impacted

Criteria:
- The near-by city of New Bedford is an old industrial city that is slowly coming back to life. However, students have limited knowledge about entrepreneurship and business planning. The workshops included product/service concepts, marketing, management, financial plans, business success, and social service operation strategies. The High School students presented their business plans at the end of the semester, and the best business plans were awarded to the CASP students. (CASP) is a non-profit school that serves disabled children (or as they are kindly referred to as “people with disabilities”), specializing in autism. UMassD SIFE members evaluated and revised five business plans developed by the CASP students.

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5. Success Skills

Community Education Outreach (CEO) Results: 8 people directly impacted, 247 people indirectly impacted

Criteria:
- The CEO project has shifted from working with adult inmates to High School students with a complete curriculum and focus.

In collaboration with the Drug Court of New Bedford, MA, UMASS SIFE taught students aged 13-17, essential life-style and career skills. The skills included interview, teamwork, and the utilization of “street-wise” attitudes towards professional career development.

Prior to our involvement with the Drug Court program, New Bedford had several drop-out students and the target group was for the students who needed help. The students put their talents and intelligence to good use.

UMassD SIFE avoided the program with the intent to teach the students through the execution of a job application, interview and employment, as most of these students are High School drop-outs and lack these necessary skills. This program has been so successful that it has developed into a requirement for the Drug Court’s completion of their probationary status. Upon completion of this year’s program, the students left with an enthusiastic attitude to engage themselves as productive members of society.
Criteria

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Key

1. Business Ethics
2. Market Economics
3. Financial Literacy
4. Entrepreneurship
5. Success Skills

Our Mission

The UMassD SIFE team mission is embedded in its vision of connecting education with the real world by promoting steadfast commitment:

- To reinforce entrepreneurial ideologies and endeavors on the campus and in the surrounding communities;
- To foster leadership, business skills and lasting relationships among its members;
- To enhance networking and learning opportunities through interactions with its advisory board members;
- To serve as a bridge between the University and the Southeast region;
- To continue to increase its membership from diverse backgrounds in order to amplify its educational impact.

Our Location

Established in 1664, the town of Dartmouth is located 60 miles south of Boston and 30 miles east of Providence. Lying midway between Fall River and New Bedford, Dartmouth is intertwined within a region once known for its strong textile and apparel manufacturing jobs, held primarily by the Portuguese and Hispanic immigrant populations. Dartmouth became one of five campuses in the University of Massachusetts system in 1991, and is strategically located to serve the Southcoast region and its more than 500,000 residents.

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

“Building a Foundation for Success.”

2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT

UMassD SIFE

The UMass Dartmouth chapter of SIFE was established in November 2003 with only 5 members and Sam Walton Fellow, Dr. Godwin Ariguzo. Today, we are 25 members strong and consist of a diverse group of students majoring in Business, English/Drama, Computer Information Science, Finance, Human Resource Management, Political Science, Operations Management and Marketing. Our membership continues to grow annually and is recognized in the region as one of the most active and community oriented student groups on campus.

Our Business Advisory Board (BAB) members continue to play an integral role in our projects with many eager to give program advice in addition to moral and financial support. With strong backing from our university administration, faculty, and BAB members, we have implemented eight exceptional projects that have truly made a difference in the lives of the people we have touched. One strong example comes directly from the words of a CreditSmart program attendee, “The CreditSmart program has taught me a lot about financial management. I wish I had learned them at home.” As UMassD SIFE members, we continue to pursue our mission of helping our community build a foundation for future success.

UMassD SIFE