

Wilson Zehr

From: Xavier Romano <xromano@eou.edu>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2016 12:26 AM
To: Danny Mielke
Cc: Wilson Zehr; Tom Insko; Gary Keller; Stephen Clements; Sarah Witte; Tim Seydel; Kevin Walker; Michael Santucci
Subject: Re: Boise Cascade Presentation

Thank you for the informative update, Wilson. Your students were - once again - an absolute joy to work with. Like many of us I am sorry that we were unable to join them for their presentation at Boise Cascade as I would have loved to have seen them in action.

Again, Wilson, "mil gracias." And again I cannot reiterate how impressive the students were and how open they were to insights, reflections and suggestions. In a word, "awesome!"

Best wishes,

-Xavier

On Fri, Jun 3, 2016 at 11:57 AM, Danny Mielke <dmielke@eou.edu> wrote:
Great work Wilson - thanks for all your efforts.

Dan

On Thu, Jun 2, 2016 at 2:30 PM, Wilson Zehr <wzehr@eou.edu> wrote:

Hi Everyone,

Our student teams gave two presentations to Boise Cascade this morning. Troy Little, Steve Lyons, and a number of others came to hear the results of two research projects:

- (1) Understanding awareness and attitudes towards Boise Cascade and their contributions in the local community. Then explore creative ways to increase visibility and engagement.
- (2) Explore the challenges around recruiting and retaining industrial engineering candidates locally. Examine what could be done to create candidates that are well qualified for these entry level roles.

The presentations went well – the students were prepared, polished, and had lots of insights to share. In general, Troy, Steve, and their team, seemed very happy with the work.

They seemed enthusiastic to discuss other ways to work together:

- BA 498 consulting engagements
- Mill visits for BLOT or other student clubs
- EOU guest speakers from Boise Cascade
- Working on an Operations Management concentration that would benefit all the manufacturing companies in the region. We have a rough draft from the research. They would be happy to help us reach out to some others in the region who would benefit as well.

Thanks to Xavier and his team for helping us create/launch a survey on campus and support this effort.

Please congratulate the students (pictures from the presentation below) if you run into them on campus. They did a great job on this project and representing the university.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wmwpmi1d3312hby/AAC85ZPvh5yAUtit9J_6ANsra?dl=0

Stacy Duman

Jared Jensen

Brady Potter

Larissa Quintana

Nessa Sahlfeld

Trisha Wardlow

Hoping this leads to lots more...

Best;

Wilson

From: Tom Insko [mailto:tinsko@eou.edu]

Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2016 8:32 AM

To: Wilson Zehr <wzehr@eou.edu>

Cc: Gary Keller <gkeller@eou.edu>; Stephen Clements <sclement@eou.edu>; Dan Mielke <dmielke@eou.edu>; Xavier Romano <xromano@eou.edu>; Sarah Witte <switte@eou.edu>; Tim Seydel <tseydel@eou.edu>

Subject: Re: Boise Cascade Presentation

Wilson (and others),

Thanks for informing us of the presentation as well as partnering with Boise Cascade on this project. I would love to attend but we have a board of trustees meeting that day so I am not available. I look forward to hearing the feedback from the presentation. I will also check in with my former colleagues at BC to get their perspective.

On a related note, last Saturday I met with the CEO of Boise Cascade, Tom Corrick, and we discussed finding a time this Fall for him to come to the university. My hope is that we can plan a function where he speaks/presents to a group of our students. I will be looking to coordinate timing with a home football game. I would also love to work with the business (finance/accounting) faculty to arrange a visit and presentation with Boise Cascade's CFO. Both these individuals would be fantastic speakers and engage well with students while bringing a real life perspective to the world beyond eastern Oregon and EOU.

I also know the Chief Technology Officer, Adam Messinger, for Twitter. My wife and I grew up with him. I worked with his father at Boise Cascade and his parents live outside of Summerville.

Another good friend of mine is a West Point and Dartmouth graduate that has served as a Ranger and now is an instructor in leadership and negotiations. He has family in this area (in fact, his sister is married to the manager of our food services team here at EOU). He has trained Navy Seals and is currently instructing at the Air Force Academy. He has published in the Harvard Business Review.

There are numerous possibilities for elevating the level of intellectual conversation and engagement with our students while opening up a world that many have not experienced. The people I mentioned are just a few of many more possibilities. I would be happy to work with faculty to see how we can make some of these things happen next year and beyond.

Thanks,

Tom Insko | President | Eastern Oregon University

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On May 16, 2016, at 4:01 PM, Wilson Zehr <wzehr@eou.edu> wrote:

Hi Everyone,

Just a quick heads up to let you know about student presentations at Boise Cascade regional headquarters on June 2, 2016 at 10:30. You are all invited.

Background: BA 498, Business Policy & Strategy, is the capstone course for the undergraduate business program. We have been working hard to incorporate a real-world engagement in each class to give students true business experience. In Winter students completed two projects for the Union County Economic Development Corporation (UCEDC). This term we are working on two projects for Boise Cascade.

- (1) Boise Cascade is the largest employer in Union County. However, they have a concern that people in the community don't know who they are or understand how they contribute to the community. This, in turn, impacts their ability to recruit and retain the talent they need to assure mutual success. They have enlisted our help to get a better sense of their visibility locally and generate suggestions on how they may improve it further.
- (2) Boise Cascade is having trouble recruiting enough high quality candidates to fill the position of Industrial Engineer. Boise Cascade is unsure if the lack of local applicants is due to the current job title, recruitment process, or simply that universities are not producing graduates that are well suited for this position. The team is exploring the skills required, potential titles, and identifying the core elements in an academic program that would meet those needs.

Boise has invited their regional and corporate management team to attend. This is a big step and an exciting moment for the students. They would welcome your support if it works with your schedule.

Best;

Wilson

Wilson Zehr

Assistant Professor, College of Business

Eastern Oregon University

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Vice President for Student Services

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