

2025



Annual Digest

GONZAGA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION



School of Business
Administration

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LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Hello from the Gonzaga University School of Business Administration! Things are going very well as we move through the fall 2025 semester. There has been a lot happening here in the Jepson Center, and we are pleased to bring you this issue of the Gonzaga University School of Business Administration Digest.

It seems that every year I tell you about our challenges. They haven’t gone away. In fact, some new ones have appeared, and some old ones have gotten more intense. Despite these trials, we continue to flourish, and I am convinced we do so because of our people. In this issue, you will learn more about who we are and what we do. More importantly, you will learn about how we impact our students and our communities and how we create value for them.

I am more confident than ever of our excellence. Why? This story I recently posted on a social media site explains my rationale:

This past week I had the pleasure of meeting with a rising high school senior and her family. They were visiting Gonzaga University and the Gonzaga University - School of Business Administration as part of her college exploration process. I always enjoy these visits as it’s an opportunity to talk about Gonzaga and all the great things we do here. She and her Mom asked some wonderful questions and I did my best to answer them. We had a very nice conversation, although her Dad was quiet. Until the end. At that point he turned to me and said, “I’m going to put you on the spot”. He continued with something like “we have loved everything about this visit, absolutely everything, but why Gonzaga when she can attend the local state

university for much less money?” I reflected for a moment, then I said something like: “That’s a great question. It’s a difficult decision for so many reasons. What I can tell you is that more than ever, the world out there is complex, challenging, competitive, and volatile. We at Gonzaga believe we prepare our students for that world. Yes, we have a great curriculum, and yes, we do a fine job of delivering its content. However, it’s more than just curriculum. It’s our smaller size and personalized approach. It’s the communication and discernment skills our students develop. It’s the relationships they build, and the experiences they gain. It’s not just a degree at Gonzaga, it’s an education; a broad-based liberal arts education, combined in our case with a first-class business education, that develops in our students a passion for learning and doing. It’s this combination of knowledge, skills, and passions that gives me confidence that we are doing an excellent job of preparing our students for the world we live in. That’s why Gonzaga.”

Everyone in our family, our students, staff, faculty, alumni, friends, and supporters, is a part of why I believe as strongly as I do. We are an exemplar of Jesuit business education because of the efforts of so many. Please enjoy this issue of our digest and thank you for helping to make a truly great business school.

Best wishes and Go Zags!

Kenneth S. Anderson, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Business Administration

RETIRING FACULTY



Todd Finkle
Pigott Professor of Entrepreneurship

Dr. Todd Finkle joined Gonzaga University’s School of Business Administration in 2011 as the Pigott Professor of Entrepreneurship. He was instrumental in establishing the Entrepreneurship and Innovation concentration designed to prepare students to become innovative leaders and entrepreneurs. During his time at Gonzaga, Todd taught a range of courses in entrepreneurship and new venture creation. His students often remarked on his energy, encouragement, and ability to connect classroom lessons to real-world business success stories. He was known for bringing accomplished entrepreneurs to campus, providing students with opportunities to learn directly from experienced business founders and innovators.

Todd earned his Ph.D. in Business Administration from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln with a dissertation on Board Effects on Performance: The Case of the Biotechnology Industry. He earned his M.B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Before joining Gonzaga, Todd co-founded the Entrepreneurship Education Consortium in Ohio.

Over his career, Todd published extensively in entrepreneurship and management journals and was recognized for his work connecting business education with entrepreneurial practice. He published a book on Warren Buffet titled Warren Buffett: Investor and Entrepreneur. He also wrote several articles on Warren Buffet and took students to visit Buffet in Omaha, Neb. He was a frequent speaker at conferences and corporate events, where he shared insights on innovation, leadership, and the entrepreneurial mindset.

NEW HIRES

Welcoming Cindy Lubahn and Rachel Ayres to the SBA Team!



Please join us in welcoming Cindy Lubahn and Rachel Ayres, the newest members of the Gonzaga University School of Business Administration team!

Cindy joined us this past spring as Program Assistant II. Cindy brings enthusiasm, energy, and strong administrative experience to our team. In her role, Cindy provides administrative support across the entire school, helping to keep day-to-day operations running smoothly and efficiently, and supporting a variety of programs and initiatives that benefit faculty, staff, and students alike.

Rachel joins the SBA as Program Assistant III, bringing her experience and talents to support budget, personnel, and key administrative operations. Her expertise and dedication strengthen our team’s ability to manage important processes and ensure that faculty and staff have the support they need to succeed.

We are thrilled to have both Cindy and Rachel on board and look forward to the positive impact they will make across the school.

TRANSITIONS

Gonzaga University's School of Business Administration is excited to announce several appointments and promotions, marking a new chapter in leadership and program innovation. These changes highlight the School's ongoing commitment to academic excellence, student success, and community engagement.



Vivek Patil
Director of Graduate Business Programs

Dr. Vivek Patil, a seasoned faculty member with over 20 years at Gonzaga, has been appointed as the new Director of Graduate Business Programs. A Professor of Marketing, Dr. Patil has significantly contributed to teaching, program development, and community partnerships. His leadership will focus on enhancing connections between students, alumni, and the business community through initiatives such as the Zag Graduate Business LinkedIn Group, an Alumni Mentorship Program, and the School of Business Stories platform. These efforts aim to strengthen the graduate business community and extend Gonzaga's mission beyond the classroom.



Christopher Stevens
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs

Dr. Christopher Stevens, a Professor of Entrepreneurship with over 15 years at Gonzaga, has been appointed as the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs. Dr. Stevens has led various programs, including the Honors Program and the Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program. His extensive experience in leadership, teaching, and scholarship will be instrumental in advancing the undergraduate business curriculum and fostering a dynamic learning environment.



Claudia Rios-Jordan
Coordinator of MBA in American Indian Entrepreneurship Program

Claudia Rios-Jordan has been promoted to Coordinator of the MBA in American Indian Entrepreneurship (MBA-AIE) program. Previously serving as the Academic Advisor for all graduate business students, Rios-Jordan has been a vital part of the graduate programs team, supporting student success and embodying Gonzaga's mission of educating the whole person. In her new role, she will oversee the coordination and development of the MBA-AIE program, which prepares leaders committed to the sustainable economic development of Native American communities. She will also continue to serve as Academic Advisor, ensuring continuity and personalized support for Gonzaga's growing graduate community.

EXECUTIVES IN RESIDENCE

To learn more about the Executive in Residence Program scan the QR code.



Executives in Residence



Kevin McQuilkin

SBA's first Executive in Residence (2021), former investment banker, adjunct finance professor, student mentor, and curriculum consultant.



Jabez LeBret

Marketing and entrepreneurship expert, Forbes contributor, author, and co-founder of Sisu Academy, supporting underserved students.



Ed Reese

Digital marketing professional, adjunct instructor, Principal of Sixth Man Marketing, and co-founder of Local U.

Visiting Executives in Residence



Ray Eby

Former 3M executive and CEO, former trial lawyer, community leader, and board member of Big Brothers Big Sisters.



Todd Ringwood

Fortune 200 executive with 30+ years of leadership experience; Principal at PHM Consulting, LLC.



Linda Underwood

Senior VP at Banner Bank, founder of Women in Finance program supporting student career development.



Kimberly Theilman

Regional Sales Director at Aegis Living with 30+ years of sales and marketing experience; dedicated mentor and community leader.



Brian Wellinghoff

Senior Director at Barry-Wehmiller, co-founder of Humanistic Leadership Academy.

VISITING INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS



Tingting Huang

Tingting Huang is a visiting international scholar for the 2025-2026 academic year through the exchange program with Mukogawa Women’s University. Professor Huang’s mentor is Dr. Tim Olsen in Management Information Systems. Huang is a faculty member in the School of Business Administration at Mukogawa Women’s University (Nishinomiya, Japan), where she teaches courses in information literacy, digital strategy, corporate information systems, and internet business. Her research examines management information systems with emphases on ERP life-cycle decision-making and IT–business alignment, as well as technology’s role in social support for older adults, the future of work, and digital-nomad communities.



Zebo Kuldasheva

Zebo Kuldasheva is a visiting international scholar for the Fall 2025 semester through the American Councils for International Education – Faculty Enrichment Program Fellows. Dr. Kuldasheva’s mentor is Dr. Maria ‘Masha’ Tackett in Economics. Dr. Kuldasheva hails from Tashkent State University of Economics in Uzbekistan. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Wuhan University in China. Her research specialty is Development and Environmental economics with a special focus on the countries of Central Asia. A fun fact about Zebo is that she is fluent in English, Uzbek, Chinese and Russian.

Celebrating
25 YEARS!



HOGAN
ENTREPRENEURIAL
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Ranked

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS
U.S. News & World Report, 2025

Top 20%
UNDERGRADUATE
BUSINESS

#20
UNDERGRADUATE
FINANCE

#26
UNDERGRADUATE
ACCOUNTING

#29
UNDERGRADUATE
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

GRADUATE PROGRAMS
U.S. News & World Report, 2025

#42
PART-TIME MBA
*(Ranked in the top 100 in
the country since 2010)*

#16
GRADUATE
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

#27
GRADUATE
ACCOUNTING

#28
GRADUATE
FINANCE

The Gonzaga MBA
Recognized as one of the

“Best On-Campus MBA Programs”

*Princeton Review's Best
Business Schools for 2025*

MBA IN AIE PROGRAM RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY

Gonzaga University’s MBA in American Indian Entrepreneurship (MBA-AIE) is Education Program of the Year, an honor from the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA), recognizing innovative programs that advance business education and economic development in Native communities.

NAFOA Secretary Melanie Benjamin (right) presents Gonzaga’s Claudia Rios-Jordan (left) and Dr. Rebecca Bull Schaefer (middle) with the Education Program of the Year Award.

Launched in 2001 with support from the Johnson Scholarship Foundation, the MBA-AIE program equips Native leaders with the skills and resources to build sustainable businesses and support economic growth in their communities. It blends online coursework with on-campus residencies to offer a flexible, culturally relevant experience for tribal professionals.

With substantial financial assistance for students and support from an active alumni advisory board, the program continues to expand its reach. Its more than 70 graduates reflect the program’s lasting impact on tribal leadership and community development.



NAFOA Secretary Melanie Benjamin (right) presents Gonzaga’s Claudia Rios-Jordan (left) and Dr. Rebecca Bull Schaefer (middle) with the Education Program of the Year Award.

BUSINESS AS A FORCE FOR GOOD



At Gonzaga's School of Business Administration, leadership means caring for the people entrusted to us. In partnership with Barry-Wehmiller, we are shaping a culture where people and performance are in harmony and where business can be the most powerful force for good.

This year we launched two new initiatives. First, the Truly Human Leadership Cohort for faculty and staff, led by Barry-Wehmiller's David Pickersgill and SBA faculty Dr. Brian Steverson and Professor Adriane Leithauser. Across eight interactive sessions, participants practiced empathetic listening, trust, accountability, confrontation, and dignity to ensure we model the culture of care we expect our students to carry into the world. Each cohort culminated in meaningful commitments to ourselves and those in our span of care.

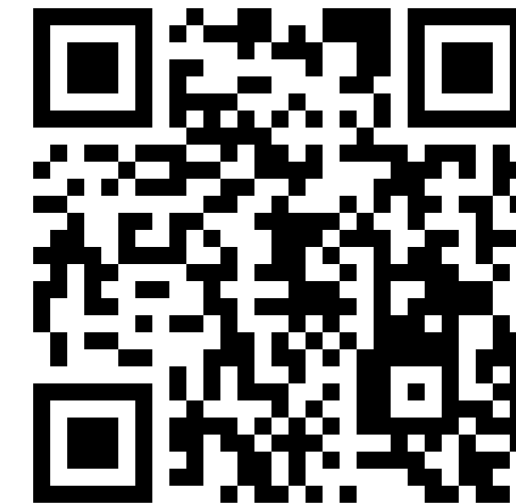
We also inaugurated the Chapman Lecture on Truly Human Leadership, honoring Bob Chapman's vision and featuring Kyle Chapman, President & CEO of Barry-Wehmiller. His message is that people-centered leadership isn't a tactic to make business thrive; it's a moral commitment to change the game of business.

Together, these initiatives reflect the School of Business Administration's commitment to forming ethical, reflective leaders who serve others. By modeling the principles of Truly Human Leadership, Gonzaga continues to demonstrate how business education can be both rigorous and deeply human, living out the Jesuit value of cura personalis.

Truly Human Leadership is now a strategic priority for the SBA. It is woven into curriculum, formation, and practice. Our aim is simple and bold: To foster a culture of caring leadership and light a fire in future leaders, sending them into the world with the courage to care.

barrywehmiller
BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

If you were unable to attend the lecture, you can watch the full recording here and learn more about the principles of Truly Human Leadership — simply scan the QR code.



STUDENTS EXCEL IN ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMPETITIONS



SHRM Earns Superior Merit Award

Gonzaga University’s Society for Human Resource Management chapter was recognized with the Superior Merit Award for the 2024-2025 academic year. This honor, awarded by SHRM, celebrates the chapter’s outstanding achievements in providing meaningful programs, services, and professional development opportunities for its members and HR students.

GWIB Wins Building Bridges Award

Gonzaga Women in Business was awarded the 2024-25 Gonzaga Student Body Association (GSBA) Building Bridges Award, one of the most meaningful recognitions for student organizations that foster connection, collaboration, and community on campus.



Left to right: Victoria Poitras, Thalila Boutdavong, Saya Betzler, Bo Eastman, Caitlin MacKenzie



Left to right: Sidney McDaniel, Ashleigh Gilbee, Jillian LaBelle, Matthew Marsh, Ben Schroeder

BAP Earns Gold Status

Gonzaga University’s Iota Delta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi has earned international Gold Chapter status for 2024–2025—one of the organization’s highest honors. Presented at the 2025 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, the award recognizes the chapter’s excellence in academics, professionalism, and ethical leadership.

Under the guidance of faculty advisor Jillian LaBelle, the chapter exceeded Beta Alpha Psi’s rigorous standards. In his letter to Dean Ken Anderson, Dr. Raymond Elson, President of Beta Alpha Psi, praised the “exceptional leadership” and “commitment to excellence” that define Gonzaga’s program.

Congratulations to the Iota Delta chapter for continuing to exemplify excellence and integrity in business education.

STUDENTS EXCEL IN ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMPETITIONS

PCAOB Scholarships

Graduate student Noah Rodgers and undergraduate student Haley Jones are the 2025-2026 Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Scholars for Gonzaga University for the 2025-2026 academic year. The PCAOB Scholars Program awards \$15,000 scholarships for outstanding students enrolled in undergraduate or graduate accounting degree programs.

DECA Competition

Four students attended the Collegiate DECA International Development Conference in San Francisco with two of them advancing to the final round. Club president Jacob McNab earned second place in the Corporate Finance event. McNab also won first place in the earlier state competition.

Students Kick off Real Estate Club

A group of SBA students have launched the Gonzaga Real Estate Club, creating new opportunities to explore careers and trends in the real estate industry. The club hosts guest speakers, offers financial modeling training, and participates in real estate competitions to give students hands-on experience.

SBA Excellence Award

Senior Finance and Management Information Systems student Isabella Lee won the 2025 SBA Excellence Award for her excellent performance in the classroom. Isabella will continue in Gonzaga's Master of Accountancy program in the Fall.



Left to right: Mariella Zavala, Dev Patel, Abby Rohrer, Georgette MacDonald, Will Koeing, Dylan Smith, Jackeline Gonzalez Marroquin, Gabi Dembinski, Jacob Zeng

Students Place Third at Advertising Competition

For the first time under the leadership of Dr. Mariella Zavala, Gonzaga University students competed in the American Advertising Federation's National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC).

Participating through Dr. Zavala's MKTG 490 Promotion Project course, the team earned third place overall in the Northwest region and won the Ad Star Award for Best Creative Idea.

"What impressed the judges most," said Zavala, "was how our students built their campaign around meaningful human connection. It was a unique and thoughtful approach that truly resonated."

Held in Bend, Oregon, the three-day competition included workshops, networking, and feedback sessions with industry professionals. Despite having just twelve weeks to prepare, compared to year-long programs from other schools, the Gonzaga team stood out for their professionalism, creativity, and collaboration.

"They made a lasting impression," Zavala said. "With their creativity, determination, and commitment to learning, they'll continue to make Gonzaga proud wherever they go."

STUDENTS IMPRESS AT NATIONAL ECONOMICS CONFERENCE



Left to right: Elie Kornfeld, Magda Kondaridze, Kelsey Carlston, Grant Gillespie

Two Gonzaga undergraduates, Grant Gillespie and Elie Kornfeld, impressed attendees at the Association of University Business and Economic Research (AUBER) annual conference with their original research, showcasing the School of Business Administration’s strong culture of mentorship and academic excellence.

Accompanied by Assistant Professors Kelsey Carlston and Magda Kondaridze, the students presented projects that demonstrated both technical rigor and creative economic thinking. Gillespie introduced a new dataset assessing fire risk at the

census tract level—work one observer described as “the type of work one would expect from a graduate student putting together a dissertation proposal.” Kornfeld examined the relationship between international trade flows and unionization levels, a project that combined theory and empirical analysis and was described by one participant as “first-rate scholarship of the kind you would never expect to see from even the most advanced undergraduates.”



Elie Kornfeld



Grant Gillespie

Reflecting on the experience, Kornfeld said, “The unique opportunity to attend the AUBER conference in Missoula, Montana, this fall was both captivating to my passion for economic research and beneficial to my aspirations for a PhD in Economics. From talking with established applied economic researchers about their careers to learning about new econometric methods, I am so fortunate to have attended such an event... The entire experience of attending the AUBER conference was formative for my professional and intellectual pursuits.”

Gillespie added, “My experience at the AUBER conference was super informative and fun. I got to see how economic research conferences operate and what to expect for future conferences... Overall, I would tell an undergraduate student who was considering going to an economic conference to do it, especially if they are super passionate about learning more about what is happening in the field. While the experience, at times, was stressful, it was definitely worth it. This experience has given me more insight into what I want to do moving forward with my academic and professional careers.”

Professors Carlston and Kondaridze’s mentorship was evident throughout the conference and in their continued support afterward. As one observer summed it up, “The culture of your School of Business allows for the type of educational experience that will let your graduates flourish... It was a great showing for Gonzaga’s School of Business Administration.”

GONZAGA LAUNCHES SEEN TO EMPOWER SPOKANE ENTREPRENEURS



Left to right: Maeve Roberts, Rob McCann, Carl Burchill, Will Castillo, Dan Stewart, Stella Raftery, Katie Neale, Ben Weintraub, Brady Oakleaf

Catholic Charities Eastern Washington and Gonzaga University’s School of Business have teamed up to launch the Spokane Entrepreneurship and Empowerment Network (SEEN), in collaboration with the University of Notre Dame’s Urban Poverty and Business Initiative (UPBI). This innovative program empowers low-income families in Spokane to plan, launch, and grow their own small businesses, creating new pathways to financial independence and community impact.

Celebrating the First Cohort

In October, SEEN celebrated the graduation of its first cohort from boot camp, marking an exciting milestone. Boot Camp graduates will continue in the program and are eligible to compete for start-up funds in a Shark Tank-type competition called ZagTank. The Boot Camp graduates will continue through a mentoring program with local entrepreneurs and then further develop their business ideas alongside Gonzaga business students in a spring semester projects class.

A special thank you goes to the Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program seniors who attended each boot camp to answer questions from the entrepreneurs and help with logistics. They also reviewed all the pitches of each ZagTank participant and provided feedback. They were instrumental in making the boot camps successful and in preparing participants for their ZagTank pitches. They provided guidance and encouragement every step of the way. Further thank yous go to Matt Hoag, Coordinator of Accounting and Associate Professor of Accounting, Jabez LeBret, SBA Executive in Residence, Molly Pepper, Associate Dean for Impact and Professor of Management, and Daniel Stewart, Director of the Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program and Professor of Entrepreneurship for their dynamic lectures and support. One participant shared, “You were the first people who ever told me you

believe in me.” Stories like this show the profound, transformative impact of SEEN on participants’ confidence and entrepreneurial potential.

A Strong Community Response

The SEEN kickoff session on September 8 exceeded expectations, drawing over 50 aspiring entrepreneurs, double the anticipated turnout. With more than 100 applications for the fall cohort, Catholic Charities is already screening candidates for a new cohort next semester. Participants were engaged, enthusiastic, and grateful for the opportunity to bring their entrepreneurial ideas to life.

Program Goals SEEN is designed to:

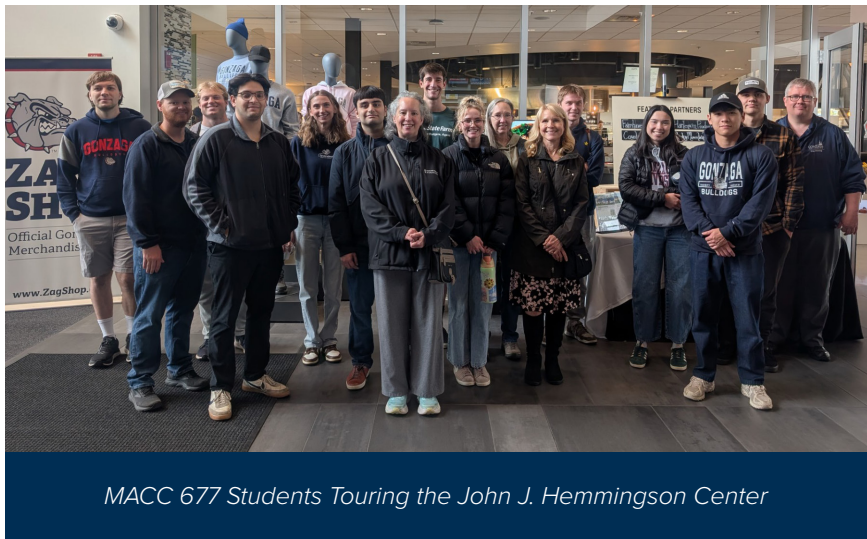
- Support the creation of new, profitable ventures by those facing economic or other disadvantages
- Help existing small businesses grow sustainably
- Develop both the person as an entrepreneur and the business as a successful venture
- Identify and share best practices in poverty alleviation through entrepreneurship
- Measure and track the development and performance of entrepreneurs and their ventures
- Celebrate entrepreneurial achievements of those overcoming adversity

Partnering for Impact

SEEN represents a powerful collaboration between Gonzaga, Catholic Charities, and UPBI, showing how education, community partnerships, and entrepreneurship can empower individuals and strengthen the Spokane community.

For more information visit: spokaneseen.org

SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION



MACC 677 Students Touring the John J. Hemmingson Center

Students in the Master of Accountancy Sustainability Accounting class, taught by Cathy DeHart, Senior Lecturer of Accounting, recently explored how sustainability principles come to life on Gonzaga’s campus through a behind-the-scenes tour of the Hemmingson Center.

Led by Nathan Child, Unit Controller and Julianna Wavada, Campus General Manager from Sodexo, the tour highlighted the company’s many sustainability initiatives, including waste reduction, energy efficiency, and responsible sourcing practices. Students had the opportunity to see how sustainable operations align with the accounting and reporting principles they study in class.

Earlier in the semester, students also visited Roast House Coffee to learn about its sustainable practices, including sourcing only shade-grown coffee beans and minimizing environmental impact in its operations. These experiences offered students hands-on exposure to how businesses can integrate sustainability into everyday practices.

Cathy noted that her students found the Hemmingson tour especially engaging. “Several students commented that they found the tour fascinating,” she said. “It was a wonderful opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world sustainability efforts.”

Julianna Wavada, General Manager for Sodexo, shared her enthusiasm for the experience: “I really enjoyed being a part of the tour and speaking with students about their post-graduation plans and passions.”

The visits underscored Gonzaga’s commitment to integrating sustainability across disciplines and demonstrated how business and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

Stay Connected



Check out the School of Business Administration podcast on G-Suite to listen to in-depth conversations with Gonzaga School of Business Administration graduates, faculty members, and friends.



Stay connected with the vibrant Zag Business community across all our social media platforms! Follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube for the latest updates, exclusive content, and engaging discussions. Join the conversation, share your insights, and be part of the thriving School of Business community. Connect with us today and let's build a stronger network together!

#ZagBusiness

Keep up to date on all School of Business New and Events at
gonzaga.edu/SBNewsEvents

SBA AWARDS

We are proud to recognize the exceptional achievements of faculty in Gonzaga University’s School of Business Administration. Through their teaching, research, and service, these dedicated educators exemplify the values that define Gonzaga’s School of Business.

From advancing research in cultural intelligence to creating impactful learning experiences across local and global communities, our faculty continue to shape the next generation of business leaders.

The Loeken Awards, Centioli Faculty Excellence Awards, and Barnes Awards honor their extraordinary contributions and ongoing commitment to innovation, service, and student success.

Congratulations to this year’s recipients—thank you for inspiring our community and elevating the School of Business Administration.

LOEKEN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognizes faculty members for all-around academic excellence.



Ryan W. Herzog
Associate Professor of Economics

Ryan excels in many ways. What his contributions have in common is his passion for our mission, his vision for our future, and his concern for our students. He has made significant contributions to the school of business, the university, and to the greater community.

LOEKEN SBA VISION & VALUES AWARDS

This award recognizes faculty members for their significant contribution to helping the SBA fulfill its vision and live its values.



Peggy Sue Loroz
Professor of Marketing

Along with Casey McNellis, Peggy Sue led efforts to revamp our reappointment, promotion, and tenure guidelines. In part driven by the new Faculty Handbook and in part driven by AACSB accreditation standards, this work is critical to ensuring our long-term success as a business school.



Casey J. McNellis
Associate Professor of Accounting

Along with Peggy Sue Loroz, Casey led efforts to revamp our reappointment, promotion, and tenure guidelines. In part driven by the new Faculty Handbook and in part driven by AACSB accreditation standards, this work is critical to ensuring our long-term success as a business school.

SBA AWARDS CONT.

CENTIOLI FACULTY SCHOLARS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

This award recognizes faculty members for all-around academic excellence.



Shan Xiao
Assistant Professor of Management Information Systems

Shan is an outstanding all-around performer. Her work in the classroom is exemplary, and she worked with one of her students to not only produce a conference paper but to receive the “Best Paper Award” among the articles in the proceedings. Additionally, her work on artificial intelligence has led to potential collaboration with her colleagues in Gonzaga’s Institute of Applied Informatics and Technology.



Yelin Zhang
Associate Professor of Finance

Yelin had a particularly impressive year in the classroom. Multiple students commented on his excellence, citing his “unparalleled” enthusiasm, his “genuine interest” in his students, and his “thoughtful” feedback. He also continued his practice of advising his students, particularly those interested in a career in finance

BARNES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award recognizes excellence in teaching and academic advising.



Yemisi Awotoye
Associate Professor of Management

Yemisi has made experiential learning a central part of what she does in the classroom. In her strategic management courses, for example, she organizes her students into teams and assigns them a project with a local, often minority-based firm. The student teams are asked to serve as problem solvers to whatever organizational challenges they have identified. Initiatives like this, along with her commitment to continuous improvement, witness her participation in

CTA programming, speak to her continued excellence in the classroom.



Gerhard Barone
Professor of Accounting

Gerhard has continued his long history of outstanding classroom performance. What makes his performance perhaps more special this time around is the number of substantial course revisions he has undertaken in the past 18 months. These revisions were necessitated by changing standards, new technologies, and, because he was often covering for other colleagues, the fact that it had been a while since he had taught the course. This level of effort, along with Gerhards’s willingness to revise an existing course for the Virtual MBA program, reflects his strong commitment to his students and to the business school.

SBA AWARDS CONT.

BARNES ENGAGEMENT AWARDS

This award recognizes engagement with the university and business communities.



Rebecca A. Bull Schaefer

Professor of Management

Becky has been tireless when it comes to building connections and partnerships. She has done a wonderful job of developing deep connections between her work here in the business school and the greater Spokane business and nonprofit communities. One example of this is the service-learning partnership she built between one of her MBA courses and Second Harvest Food Bank. Another example of her partnership efforts through teaching are the numerous site-visits she arranges for her undergraduate and MBA students. Her work as Director of Graduate Business Programs and her service on the board of the Women Helping Women Fund also point to her broad and effective engagement.



Mirjeta Beqiri

Professor of Operations Management

Mirjeta is one of the more engaged faculty in the university. Her record of participation and service is admirable. She builds service-learning opportunities, often with non-profit organizations, into her classes, she serves many outside organizations like READ’s Advisory Council, and she often invites community partners into her classes to interact with her students. This is all in addition to her fine work on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

BARNES INSPIRATION AWARDS

This award recognizes engagement with the Jesuit mission of the university through teaching, research, advising, or service.



John Correia

Associate Professor of Management Information Systems

John continued his great work by focusing on aligning it with the mission and values of our Jesuit heritage. He developed a new class called “Finding mastery” and he continued his strong leadership of the Gonzaga Sports Consulting Group. In their own unique ways, both of these efforts are supportive of the principles of developing the whole person and learning by doing.



Cathy DeHart

Sr. Lecturer of Accounting

Cathy continued her amazing work in the area of sustainability. She worked with colleague Erica Johnson to develop a new sustainability course, and she dramatically improved her graduate sustainability class. She expanded the coverage of ESG in her undergraduate courses. She also developed several experiential opportunities, including a behind the scenes tour of the Hemmingson Center.

AWARDS CONT.



Stephanie Van Dellen

Assistant Professor of Management

Management faculty member Dr. Stephanie Van Dellen recently won two awards.

2024 Emerald Literati Award for Outstanding Paper for her paper on gig worker organizing: Schmidt, G.B., Philip, J., Van Dellen, S.A., & Islam, S. (2022). Gig worker organizing: toward an adapted Attraction-Selection-Attrition framework. Journal of Managerial Psychology.

The Management and Organizational Behavior Teaching Society’s New Educator Award. The award recognizes her exceptional in-class instruction and her educational innovation.



Daniel Stewart

Professor of Entrepreneurship & Director of the Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program

A paper co-authored by entrepreneurship professor Dr. Dan Stewart was recognized as one of **Nature Energy’s standout papers from 2024**. The paper examined possibilities for renewable energy development on American Indian Reservations and acknowledged that the colonial processes of reservation creation and intentional deprivation of natural resources

have contributed to the situation. More information about this honor can be found at <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41560-025-01712-0>



Rebecca A. Bull Schaefer

Professor of Management

Gonzaga University School of Business Administration is proud to announce that Dr. Rebecca A. Bull Schaefer, Professor of Management, has been nominated for the **2026 YWCA Spokane Women of Achievement Awards**.

The 2026 YWCA Women of Achievement Award winners embody the mission of YWCA Spokane by giving generously of themselves to make Spokane a better place for all to live.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Rebecca Bull Schaefer on this well-deserved nomination and in celebrating all of the incredible women recognized this year for their contributions to the Spokane community.



Vivek H. Patil

Director of Graduate Business Programs and Professor of Marketing

Vivek H. Patil won the **Rev. Jerry Cavanaugh S.J. best paper award**.

The editorial team of the Journal of Jesuit Business Education is pleased to announce that Vivek H. Patil from Gonzaga University has won the **Rev. Jerry Cavanaugh S.J. best paper award** for volume 16 (Summer 2025). His paper was titled "The Journal of Jesuit Business Education: An Analysis of Collaboration Networks."

The Rev. Jerry Cavanaugh S.J. best paper was instituted by the Colleagues of Jesuit Business Education (CJBE) to honor the late Father Cavanaugh S.J. who spent many years as a board member of the CJBE and who was a passionate advocate for the distinctiveness of Jesuit Business Education.



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